1	INTER CHARGO DICERTO	COURT	
2	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY		
3	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION	
4	v. :	NO. 24-3993	
5	BLACKBAUD, INC., et al. :		
6 7	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.: :	CIVIL ACTION	
8	v. :	NO. 24-3998	
9	WHITEPAGES, INC., et al. :		
10	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION	
11	v. :	NO. 24-4000	
12	HIYA, INC., et al. :		
13 14	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:		
	v . :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4037	
15 16	WE INFORM, LLC :		
17			
18	April 18, 2024		
19	STATUS CONFERENCE		
20			
21			
22	Ann Marie Mitchell, CRR, RDR, CCR, O	=	
23	AnnMarie_Mitchell@njd.us (856) 576-7018	courts.gov	
24	Proceedings recorded by mechanical st produced by computer-aided to		
25	produced by computer arded to		

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1	;	
2	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
3	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4041
4	<pre>INFOMATICS, LLC, et al. :</pre>	
5	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	-
6	v. :	CIVIL ACTION
7	: THE PEOPLE SEARCHERS, LLC, et al. :	NO. 24-4045
8	:	
9	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	-
10	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4073
11	V. :	NO. 24-4073
	COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE, INC.,: et al. :	
12		
13	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
14	v. :	NO. 24-4075
15	DM GROUP, INC., et al. :	
16	: :	
17	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
18	v. :	NO. 24-4077
19	CARCO GROUP INC., et al. :	
20	:	
21	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CTVII ACMION
22	v.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4080
23	DELUXE CORPORATION, et al. :	
24		-
25		

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1	:	
2	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
3	v. :	NO. 24-4095
4	TWILIO INC., et al. :	
5	<u> </u>	
6	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
7	v. :	NO. 24-4096
8	DELVEPOINT, LLC, et al. :	
9	: :	
10	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
11	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4098
12	QUANTARIUM ALLIANCE, LLC, et al. :	
13	: :	
14	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
15	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4103
16	: YARDI SYSTEMS, INC., et al. :	
17	:	
18	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
19	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4104
20	: 6SENSE INSIGHTS, INC., et al. :	
21		
 22	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
23	v.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4105
24	LIGHTBOX PARENT, L.P., et al. :	NO. 23 3100
24 25	LIGHTDOA PARENT, L.P., et al. :	
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ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
v.	NO. 24-4105
SEARCH QUARRY, LLC, et al.	
: :	
: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4107
ACXIOM, LLC, et al. :	
ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4110
ENFORMION, LLC, et al. :	
:	
ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
v.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4111
COSTAR GROUP, INC., et al.	NO. 24 4111
COSTAR GROUP, INC., et al.	
AMIAG DAMA DDIVAGY GODDODAMION '	
ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
v. :	NO. 24-4112
ORACLE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION, et : al. :	
: :	
ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4113
RED VIOLET, INC., et al.	-

1	<u></u>	
2	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
3	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4114
4	RE/MAX, LLC, et al. :	
5		
6	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
7	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4141
8	DIGITAL SAFETY PRODUCTS, LLC, et al. :	
9	:	
10	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
_	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4143
 12	: CIVIL DATA RESEARCH :	
13		
14	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
1	v.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4160
16	SCALABLE COMMERCE, LLC, et al. :	NO. 24 4100
10 17	SCALABLE COMMERCE, LLC, et al.	
1 / 18	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
10 19	:	CIVIL ACTION
	V. :	NO. 24-4168
20	EPSILON DATA MANAGEMENT, LLC, et al. :	
21	-	
22	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
23	v. :	NO. 24-4171
24	PEOPLE DATA LABS, INC., et al. :	
25		

1	:	
2	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
3	v. :	NO. 24-4174
4	LABELS & LISTS, INC.	
5	: 	
6	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
7	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4175
8	: CLARITAS, LLC, et al. :	
9	:	
0	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
1	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4176
- 2	: INNOVIS DATA SOLUTIONS INC., et al. :	
3	:	
<i>J</i>	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
- 5	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4178
	v. :	NO. 24-41/8
6	ACCURATE APPEND, INC., et al. :	
7	<u>:</u>	
8	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
9	v. :	NO. 24-4181
0	DATA AXLE, INC., et al. :	
1	<u> </u>	-
2	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CTVII ACMION
3	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4182
4	REMINE INC., et al. :	
5		

<u> </u>	-=
ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4184
: LUSHA SYSTEMS, INC., et al. :	
:	
ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4217
: TELTECH SYSTEMS, INC., et al. :	
:	
<u></u> :	
ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
v. :	NO. 24-4227
PEOPLECONNECT, INC., et al. :	
: :	
: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4230
v. :	NO. 24-4230
CORELOGIC, INC., et al. :	
<u></u> :	=
ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	GT11TT 1 GMT011
v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4233
: BLACK KNIGHT TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, et al.:	
; :	
<u> </u>	
ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
v. :	NO. 24-4256
ZILLOW, INC., et al. :	

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1	:	
2	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	IL ACTION
3		24-4261
4	EQUIMINE, INC., et al. :	
5	: ::::::-::::-::-::-::-::-::-:	
6	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
7		IL ACTION 24-4269
8	: THOMSON REUTERS CORPORATION, et al. :	
9	<u> </u>	
. 0	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
1		IL ACTION 24-4271
2	: CHOREOGRAPH LLC, et al. :	
3	: :	
4	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
5		IL ACTION 24-4288
6	TRANSUNION, LLC, et al. :	
7	: :	
8	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
9		IL ACTION 24-4292
0	: MELISSA DATA CORP., et al. :	
1	: :	
2	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
3	: CIV	IL ACTION 24-4298
4	EQUIFAX INC., et al.	
5		
<i>)</i>		

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1	:	-
2	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
3	v. :	NO. 24-4299
4	SPOKEO, INC., et al. :	
5	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
6	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
7	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4324
8	RESTORATION OF AMERICA, et al. :	
9	: 	
0	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
1	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4345
2	: i360, LLC, et al. :	
3	: 	
4	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
5	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4354
6	: TELNYX LLC, et al. :	
7	: :	
8	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
9	· : • · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4380
9	GOHUNT, LLC, et al. :	
1	; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ;	
2	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
3	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4383
<i>3</i>	:	NO. 21-1303
	ACCUZIP, INC., et al. :	
5		

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1	<u> </u>	
2	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
3	v. :	NO. 24-4385
4	SYNAPTIX TECHNOLOGY, LLC, et al. :	
5	: 	
6	: ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
7	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4389
8	: JOY ROCKWELL ENTERPRISES, INC., et al.:	
9	: :	
0	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
1	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4390
2	FORTNOFF FINANCIAL, LLC, et al. :	
3	:	
4	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	
5	v. :	CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-4392
6	MYHERITAGE, LTD., et al. :	NO. 24 4332
7	HINERITAGE, DID., et al.	
	AMILIA DAMA DRIVIANI GODDODAMION AL AL	
8	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
9	v. :	NO. 24-4434
0	E-MERGES.COM, INC. :	
1		
2	ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:	CIVIL ACTION
3	v .	NO. 24-4442
4	WILAND, INC., et al. :	
5		

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1
    ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:
                                               CIVIL ACTION
 3
                                              NO. 24-4447
              v.
    ATDATA, LLC, et al.
    JOHN DOE-1, et al.
                                               CIVIL ACTION
 7
                                               NO. 24-4566
              v.
    LEXISNEXIS RISK DATA MANAGEMENT, LLC, :
    et al.
 9
10
    ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:
11
                                              CIVIL ACTION
                                              NO. 24-4571
              v.
12
    PRECISELY HOLDINGS, LLC, et al.
13
14
    ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:
15
                                              CIVIL ACTION
                                               NO. 24-4609
              v.
16
    NUWBER, INC., et al.
17
18
    ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:
19
                                               CIVIL ACTION
                                               NO. 24-4664
              v.
20
    ROCKETREACH LLC, et al.
21
    ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:
23
                                              CIVIL ACTION
                                              NO. 24-4696
              v.
24
    OUTSIDE INTERACTIVE, INC.
25
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1
 2
    ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:
                                              CIVIL ACTION
 3
                                             NO. 24-4770
              v.
    VALASSIS DIGITAL CORP., et al.
 5
    ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:
 6
                                              CIVIL ACTION
                                             NO. 24-4850
              v.
 7
    THE LIFETIME VALUE CO. LLC, et al.
 8
 9
    ATLAS DATA PRIVACY CORPORATION, et al.:
10
                                              CIVIL ACTION
                                             NO. 24-4949
              v.
11
    BELLES CAMP COMMUNICATIONS, INC., et
12
    al.
13
14
         Mitchell H. Cohen Building & U.S. Courthouse
15
         4th & Cooper Streets
         Camden, New Jersey 08101
16
         April 18, 2024
         Commencing at 9:58 a.m.
17
18
    BEFORE:
                       THE HONORABLE HARVEY BARTLE, III,
                        UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
19
20
    APPEARANCES:
21
22
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19
         LLC; Deluxe Corporation; DM Group, Inc.; Enformion, LLC;
         Red Violet, Inc.; Remine Inc.; RocketReach LLC; CoreLogic
20
         Inc.
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         LLC; and We Inform, LLC, et al.
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         Information, Inc.; LightBox Parent, L.P.; LightBox
         Holdings, L.P.; Oracle International Corporation; Oracle
17
         America, Inc.; Oracle Corp.; PeopleConnect Holdings,
         Inc.; Intelius, LLC; and PeopleConnect Intermediate, LLC
18
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         Reference Foundation LLC, and Accurate Append, Inc.
22
23
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              TYLER J. DOMINO, ESQUIRE
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 6
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 9
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         Princeton, New Jersey 08542
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12
         Conversant LLC; and Citrus Ad International, Inc.
13
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         BY: ANTHONY J. STALTARI, ESQUIRE
         51 Madison Avenue, 22nd Floor
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         New York, New York 10010
         For the Defendant Yardi Systems, Inc.
16
17
    ALSO PRESENT:
18
         DAVID BRUEY, Courtroom Deputy
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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1
             (PROCEEDINGS held in open court before The Honorable
 2
    HARVEY BARTLE, III at 9:58 a.m.)
 3
             THE COURT: Good morning.
 4
             RESPONSE: Good morning, Your Honor.
 5
             THE COURT: Please be seated. Thank you all for
 6
    coming.
 7
             The Court has before it this morning a status
 8
    conference in some 67 cases where the plaintiff has alleged
    that the defendants have violated a New Jersey statute called
10
    Daniel's Law.
11
             As you all know, I've been designated by the chief
12
    judge of the Court of Appeals to handle these cases which have
1.3
    all been removed from the Superior Court of New Jersey.
14
             Before we get into more substantive matters, I want
15
    to deal with some preliminary issues.
16
             I've received a plethora of pro hac vice motions.
    Sometimes the lawyers are filing something called notice of
18
    motion. I have no idea what that means. If you want to have
19
    someone admitted pro hac vice, file a motion. Attach to it a
20
    form of order. Do not put the word "proposed" on the order.
21
    It's implicit when you give me a form of order that it's
    proposed. When I sign it, I have to cross out the word
22
23
    "proposed" if it's typed on the caption. So please just give
24
    me a form of order with the pro hac vice motion.
25
             Also, the filing fee for a pro hac vice motion is
```

1.3

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$250. Some of you haven't gotten the word that the amount was increased from 150. In the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, you have to file your check concurrently with the motion, but in New Jersey they're a little bit more trusting about it.
```

Also, all these cases are assigned to the Camden Vicinage. I think sometimes people are putting on their papers either Newark or Trenton. They've all been automatically reassigned to the Camden vicinage.

There was a request by one of the attorneys that we have people listening in by phone or electronically in some fashion. I think we'll avoid that at the moment. I think it's better if everybody appears in person. There will obviously be a transcript, so if someone wants a transcript, they can purchase it. And there are many people here who can advise their absent colleagues about what happened.

Now, I'd like to turn to -- oh, before we do that, if whoever speaks, please precede your comments by your name, please spell your last name for the benefit of the court reporter, also at least initially identify the case in which you're involved. Some of you are involved in multiple cases; just identify one maybe with the case number. But each time you speak, please use your name.

I entered an order -- several orders, actually -- setting up this status conference. And I included some subjects that I thought would be the subject of discussion.

```
That's not an inflexible agenda. Obviously we'll talk about
 1
    whatever is relevant that you want to talk about today.
 3
             But the first matter that I want to raise is the
 4
    question of subject matter jurisdiction, whether plaintiffs'
 5
    counsel are going to seek to file motions for remand.
 6
             Plaintiffs' counsel?
 7
             MR. SHAW: Yes, Your Honor. Could I stay here or
 8
    would you like me at the lectern?
 9
             THE COURT: You can come up here.
10
             MR. SHAW: Good morning, Your Honor.
11
             THE COURT: Good morning.
12
             MR. SHAW: Adam Shaw, S-H-A-W, for the plaintiffs.
1.3
             THE COURT: All right.
14
             MR. SHAW: Judge, if I can just give you a little bit
15
    of the lay of the land.
16
             There's been about 145 cases filed in New Jersey. As
    you say, 67 of them have gotten removed here. And my
18
    understanding is all have been assigned to you.
19
             Just to tell you a little bit about the state of New
20
    Jersey, so there's about 80 of them still there, and we've
21
    moved to consolidate in the various counties there.
22
             It's my understanding that there's -- most of the
23
    cases, time has run out to remove, but there's still a few
24
    where we're serving defendants, so there's still some time for
25
    that. And there's still a couple more cases that might come
```

```
1
    this way.
 2
             So of the 67 or so that have been filed in front of
 3
    Your Honor, about just under 30 seem to be -- clearly have
    diversity jurisdiction, where there's complete diversity --
 5
             THE COURT: Of course we don't need complete
 6
    diversity here under CAFA. It's minimal diversity, correct?
 7
             MR. SHAW: Well, I'll get to that in a second.
 8
             THE COURT: All right.
 9
             MR. SHAW: So some of them, it's very clear on the
10
    face that there is full diversity and as a threshold met. We
11
    still have to investigate a little bit on a couple of the LLCs
12
    to make sure of that. But there's about 30 of them or so that
1.3
    there's not diversity between the plaintiff and the defendant,
14
    complete diversity. And the defendants have suggested that
15
    they could get through the plaintiffs' diversity, saying that
16
    it was collusive, to avoid jurisdiction in this Court. That's
17
    one of the arguments they make.
18
             The second argument they make is about CAFA.
    don't think either of those arguments are good. And we intend
19
20
    to make a motion to remand for a certain set of the cases.
21
             The reason that's not collusive is obviously --
22
    usually that's directed to one defendant, you know, the
23
    plaintiff has set up some form of citizenship to avoid
24
    jurisdiction here. That's obviously not the case here.
25
    There's 50 different defendants.
```

```
1
             THE COURT: Well, under CAFA all we need is minimal
 2
    diversity. Correct?
 3
             MR. SHAW: Correct.
 4
             THE COURT: Let's step back.
 5
             You agree that in each of the cases, there are more
 6
    than 100 plaintiffs?
 7
             MR. SHAW: No, Your Honor.
 8
             THE COURT: You have 19,000, don't you?
 9
             MR. SHAW: We do. But the way CAFA works, Your
10
    Honor, is it's actually the named plaintiff. And there's
11
    Supreme Court cases that say you do not look to try to figure
12
    out whether there's some other represented party or real party
1.3
    in interest. And in Supreme Court cases, I believe it's a
14
    Mississippi case where the AG brought a case, it's whoever is
15
    on the caption. If that's on the caption, that's what it is.
16
    Or if you bring it in the form of a class action, if you bring
17
    it under some state vehicle that looks like a class action.
18
    Daniel's Law does not look like a class action.
19
             So we would say that there's not -- you do not look
20
    through the plaintiff to see how many people we have
21
    assignments for, for example. We are the plaintiff in this
22
    case, Atlas, with a few individual plaintiffs. And that's our
23
    position. And we'd like to -- you know, we're going to be --
24
    like to submit remand motions on that ground.
25
             THE COURT: We have 67, and you say in 30 of the
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```
1
    cases you're not going to challenge jurisdiction?
 2
             MR. SHAW: Correct, Your Honor.
 3
             THE COURT: And then in the other 30 or so you will
    be challenging?
 5
             MR. SHAW: Yes, Your Honor.
 6
             THE COURT: All right. Let me just hear from any
 7
    defense counsel that wishes to speak to that subject, and then
    we can talk about the scheduling of that.
 9
             MR. SHAW: Thank you, Your Honor.
10
             THE COURT: Good morning.
11
             MR. STIO: Good morning, Your Honor. Angelo Stio
12
    from Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders. I represent a group of
1.3
    ten defendants.
14
             THE COURT: Ten, right.
15
             MR. STIO: The CARCO Group is one of them, Docket
16
    Number 0477.
17
             Your Honor, we agree that there are 30 cases where
18
    there is complete diversity. And we understand that the
19
    plaintiff wants to file motions for remand, but just to take a
20
    step back --
21
             THE COURT: Motions for remand on the ones where
22
    there is not complete diversity?
23
             MR. STIO: Where they claim that -- yes, where they
24
    claim there's not complete diversity.
25
             THE COURT: So that would be -- in other words, there
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1
    are 37 that they're challenging jurisdiction, roughly, and 30
 2
    that they are not?
 3
             MR. STIO: Correct, Your Honor.
 4
             But to take a step back, where they talked about we
 5
    had this theory about the defendants or the plaintiffs being
    collusively joined.
 7
             This case presents a really unique circumstance.
 8
    the best way to describe it, as we did in our letter, it's an
 9
    inverse multidistrict litigation.
10
             THE COURT: Right.
11
             MR. STIO: We have one common thread in all the
12
    cases. We have a corporate plaintiff who claims that they
1.3
    have assignments for 19,000 individuals, and on the basis of
14
    these assignments, they can assert the rights of these
15
    individuals under Daniel's Law.
16
             The case is about Atlas's actions. This is a company
    that bombarded the defendants with thousands of emails from an
18
    email address @atlasmail.com. They didn't provide a lot of
19
    information. They were form emails. And they're cookie
20
    cutter/boilerplate complaints.
21
             Now, the defendants are in different industries.
                                                               The
22
    defendants have unique defenses, both factual and legal, and
23
    there's a large number of defendants who have
24
    jurisdictional -- personal jurisdictional defenses. There are
25
    some defendants that have issues with arbitrability that
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they're going to bring to the Court's attention.
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1.3

But if we are going to go down the road to motions to remand, we think that there is limited discovery that should be produced that will bear on that.

And what we believe would make sense is, A, let's have the plaintiffs turn over the assignments that they allege they have for 19,000 people. It's going to go directly to this issue. It will allow the defendants to examine them.

And in full disclosure, under New Jersey law, they have a rule that you can request an assignment within five days to be produced. Plaintiffs did produce those to four of my clients. And there's a motion to seal, a motion for protective order out there that needs to be decided. But there are other defendants here that don't have the assignment. They should produce that.

Second, we need defendants to produce if -plaintiffs to produce if any defendants request a list of who
these covered people are and the information they claim that
they sent out to over 200 businesses to an unverified email by
the thousands. We need that to know are there claims here, do
we have the information.

THE COURT: Let's back up. We have 30 cases where there's no challenge to subject matter jurisdiction; is that correct?

MR. STIO: Where they're not.

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1
             THE COURT: Yeah.
 2
             MR. STIO: Correct.
 3
             THE COURT: There are 30 -- all right.
 4
             MR. SHAW: Yes, Your Honor.
 5
             THE COURT: Let's focus on those for a moment, and
 6
    then we'll deal with the other 37.
 7
             From at least one of the motions to dismiss that I've
 8
    seen, a constitutional challenge has been raised to Daniel's
 9
    Law; is that correct?
10
             MR. STIO: There is one case that I'm aware of that
7 7
    includes a constitutional challenge, yes.
12
             THE COURT: Now, with respect to those 30 cases where
1.3
    there is jurisdiction, is there going to be a constitutional
14
    challenge to the statute?
15
             MR. STIO: So, Your Honor, what I would propose to
16
    that -- I don't know the answer, but I think that we would
17
    like the opportunity to meet and confer with the plaintiffs,
18
    because this is the first time we have known that they're
19
    going to file a motion to remand. We've asked --
20
             THE COURT: On some cases, not all.
21
             MR. STIO: Correct. But I do think that from the
22
    defendants' standpoint -- I'm talking about the signatory
23
    defendants. I don't want to speak on defendants who didn't
24
    join in the letter that we submitted.
25
             THE COURT: No, I understand. I'm going to hear from
```

1 anybody else who wants to speak to it. 2 MR. STIO: But from the defendants' standpoint, we 3 would like to have the opportunity to meet and confer. And it 4 would help with, A -- we'll meet and confer with the plaintiffs to come up with a joint letter to the Court, A, how 5 are we going to handle this bucket of 30 cases that they're not going to challenge on remand, and how are we going to do it efficiently. 9 And what I mean by that, Your Honor, is I don't think 10 Your Honor wants to get 67 12(b)(6) motions on the same 11 subject. Let us talk among ourselves and with plaintiff, can 12 we put together a schedule, can we try to come to an agreement 1.3 on some sort of consolidated briefing on the defendants' side, 14 and we present it in an orderly fashion to the Court. 15 But I don't think that we can start doing those 30 16 cases and have that sequenced or consolidated briefing until 17 we resolve this preliminary issue of subject matter 18

jurisdiction with regard to the other 37.

THE COURT: Why? Why can't we go forward with the 30?

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. STIO: Because I think that if they are going to file a 12(b)(6) motion, and we have other defendants who have similar defenses, it's not going to work with consolidated briefing. What we're trying to do is to make this as efficient as possible so that if there are defendants that

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1
    have the same defenses, they can join in and either file, you
 2
    know, a shorter brief or one consolidated brief.
 3
             But the best way I think for us -- because, again, we
    just found out they're going to file a motion for remand -- is
    let us meet and confer with plaintiffs. Let us submit a joint
    letter to the Court where we'll try to bracket, we have these
    30 that they're not going to challenge on remand, we have
    these 67, and how do we come up with a schedule that works for
 9
    the Court, that works for plaintiffs and that works for
10
    defendants that is efficient, that doesn't result in some
11
    plaintiffs not having the ability to join in briefing, and
12
    allows the Court to decide threshold issues at the beginning,
1.3
    which are subject matter jurisdiction, personal jurisdiction,
14
    and arbitrability. Because none of the defendants want to
15
    waive personal jurisdiction or subject matter jurisdiction.
16
             THE COURT: I mean, obviously there's some urgency
    here, at least according to the plaintiffs. And I think
18
    that's probably true on everybody's part.
19
             MR. STIO: See, Your Honor, may I speak to that for a
20
    moment?
21
             THE COURT: Yes.
22
             MR. STIO: Everyone in this courtroom understands the
23
    noble intent of Daniel's Law. It's to protect the privacy and
24
    safety of public servants.
```

These cases are not about protecting the privacy and

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safety of public servants. These cases are about a private
corporation's actions. And as we described in our letter, you
know, they want to hide behind urgency, but their actions here
do not show urgency. They abrogated nearly 19,000
individuals' information, and they waited to make requests.
They could have made requests individually --
         THE COURT: Well, now we're getting into the merits.
        MR. STIO: I'm sorry?
         THE COURT: It just seems to me that it's clear that
the constitutionality of the statute is going to be
challenged. I mean, let's not hide the ball here. Isn't that
what's going to happen?
        MR. STIO: For some defendants.
         THE COURT: Other defendants are going to say it's
constitutional?
        MR. STIO: Other defendants will either join in or
take no position. And the reason for that is other defendants
want to get a ruling on personal jurisdiction, arbitrability,
before having to get into or waive, possibly, the ability to
pursue the jurisdictional arguments.
         THE COURT: Well --
         COUNSEL: Excuse me, Your Honor. I'm sorry.
can't hear back here.
         THE COURT: Oh, keep your voice up. Speak up.
        MR. STIO: What I'm saying is there are defendants
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1
    who have personal jurisdiction, arbitrability defenses.
 2
             THE COURT: What do you mean, arbitrability?
 3
    There's a contract --
 4
             MR. STIO: There's -- they have a terms of use --
 5
    yeah. I could have one of the defendants' counsel speak to
    that.
 7
             THE COURT: Okay.
 8
             MR. STIO: But there's a terms of use. In order to
 9
    use the website, they have to click on a terms of use, accept
10
    it, and it calls for an arbitration.
11
             THE COURT: Okay.
12
             MR. STIO: And then there's personal --
1.3
             THE COURT: I'm talking about the ones where there's
14
    no subject matter jurisdiction challenge.
15
             In some of those cases, you're saying that there's
16
    personal jurisdiction issues?
17
             MR. STIO: Correct. Now, and there's also -- there
18
    may be arbitrability challenges in the second bucket, which
19
    is the 37 --
20
             THE COURT: Let's just talk about --
21
             MR. STIO: The first bucket?
22
             THE COURT: Let's just talk about the first bucket.
23
             So with respect to those where there is no challenge
24
    to subject matter jurisdiction, in some of those there will be
25
    challenges to personal jurisdiction, and there may also be
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issues of arbitrability, is that what you're saying, in the --
of the 30 where there's no challenge to subject matter
jurisdiction?
         MR. STIO: I believe so, Your Honor. And the reason
I am hesitant is that there are some arbitrability in the
second bucket.
         But personal jurisdiction, I know for a fact that at
least my clients are in that first bucket, a couple of them,
and they will have a challenge on personal jurisdiction.
         THE COURT: Now, will all your clients challenge
personal jurisdiction?
         MR. STIO: Not all my clients, no, Your Honor.
ones where there was complete diversity and they don't have
contact with New Jersey.
         THE COURT: This is no way we can decide these 67
cases all at once. And I'm thinking out loud now, because
that's why we have this status conference. And I want to hear
from other lawyers too who have anything to say about it.
Whether we should tee up a case that deals with the
constitutional challenge, that's going to -- where there's no
issue about the personal jurisdiction, where there's no issue
about subject matter jurisdiction -- we have to start
somewhere -- and file a motion to dismiss on the ground that
the statute violates the First Amendment, have briefing, get
it decided.
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If I decide it's unconstitutional, that's the end of
it. If I decide it's constitutional, then maybe there can be
a certification under 1292, go up immediately to the Court of
Appeals and get it decided.
         Now, what's the problem with that?
         MR. STIO: The problem is with regard to
jurisdiction. Personal jurisdiction, arbitrability.
         THE COURT: No. I'm talking about the cases where
there's no challenge to personal jurisdiction, where there's
no challenge to subject matter jurisdiction.
         MR. STIO: And you would put all the other --
everything else would be stayed?
         THE COURT: Well, I can't decide them all at once,
can T?
         MR. STIO: No.
         THE COURT: Look, let's be practical about it.
seems to me the heart of it. I know people may have personal
jurisdiction issues. But those that don't, why don't we tee
it up, get the central issue decided, one way or the other,
and I would certify it under 1292. If I decide it's
constitutional, you get to the Court of Appeals, and the issue
will be resolved in our lifetime.
         MR. STIO: Your Honor, again, I would like to have --
meet and confer with the plaintiffs.
         I understand where the Court wants to go, but I can't
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1
    speak on behalf of 67 cases.
 2
             THE COURT: I'm just talking -- I know.
 3
             I'd like to hear anybody else's comment on that
 4
    proposal. I am not wedded to it. I just throw it out to try
 5
    to move it along, because we could get ourselves bogged down
    for years on discovery and other things when this is the
 7
    central issue here.
 8
             Now, I know every defendant is different, and I know
 9
    there may be other defenses, but would anybody else like to
10
    speak to that?
11
             Yes, you may.
12
             Good morning.
1.3
             MR. KIMREY: Good morning, Your Honor. May it please
14
    the Court, I'm Blaine Kimrey, that's K-I-M-R-E-Y.
15
             THE COURT: All right.
16
             MR. KIMREY: I represent Whitepages and Hiya. The
    Whitepages case number is 24-cv-3998. Hiya is 24-cv-4000.
18
             I don't speak on behalf of this entire group,
19
    obviously.
20
             THE COURT: I understand.
21
             MR. KIMREY: I speak only on behalf of those two
22
    clients, Your Honor.
23
             We think your idea is fantastic one. We agree that
24
    the constitutional issue should be decided.
25
             We, if we ever get there, would challenge the
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1
    constitutionality of the statute.
 2
             THE COURT: Right.
 3
             MR. KIMREY: We do believe that it is
 4
    unconstitutional, both facially and as applied.
 5
             I do know note, however, that Whitepages and Hiya are
 6
    in the group that is going to be fighting about subject matter
 7
    jurisdiction apparently, so we won't be in one of those lead
 8
    cases.
 9
             THE COURT: Apparently or you will be?
10
             MR. KIMREY: Well their motion to remand is due today
11
    in both cases, so we'll see.
12
             THE COURT: Yes.
1.3
             MR. KIMREY: But that sounds like a fantastic idea,
14
    Your Honor. Get that constitutional issue teed up, you can
15
    decide it as a matter of law, and then if you wish, you can
16
    1292 it up to the Court of Appeals.
17
             THE COURT: Right.
18
             MR. KIMREY: I do note, Your Honor, just so you know,
19
    you may know this already, but there is a constitutional
20
    challenge ongoing right now that's led by the ACLU. It's
21
    currently before the New Jersey Court of Appeals, so it's
22
    something that you'll probably want to watch. And it may go
23
    up to the New Jersey Supreme Court. Although, obviously,
24
    that's not necessarily dispositive for you, because this is a
25
    federal constitutional issue.
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1
             THE COURT: Right, right.
 2
             MR. KIMREY: But something to be aware of.
 3
             THE COURT: Is there a challenge under both the US
    Constitution and the Constitution of New Jersey?
 5
             MR. KIMREY: Yes. And New Jersey's constitution, its
 6
    free speech clause has been deemed to be -- to protect more
 7
    speech than the US Constitution.
 8
             THE COURT: All right. I'd like to hear anybody else
 9
    comment on that, on this particular issue.
             Let's hear from defense counsel here.
10
11
             MR. SZYBA: Good morning, Your Honor.
12
             THE COURT: Good morning.
1.3
             MR. SZYBA: Robert Szyba. I represent three
    different defendants, Infomatics, The People Searchers, and We
14
15
    Inform, from one of the case numbers, at least, 24-cv-4037.
16
             THE COURT: Are you one of the 30 defendants or the
17
    37 group?
18
             MR. SZYBA: I'm one of the 30 defendants that have
19
    complete true diversity.
20
             THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
21
             MR. SZYBA: From our perspective, Your Honor, two
22
    points.
23
             Regarding the idea about having staggered briefing to
    address fundamental threshold constitutional issues and then
24
25
    moving on to the personal jurisdiction issues, we concur with
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1.3

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our colleagues, that seems like a really great idea, because that would likely address a lot of these threshold issues for the lowest common denominator of cases and address these in a very organized and orderly fashion where parties can sign on or not.
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I think each case will likely have unique issues where some -- some companies will have some arguments more than others. So if we do address it that way, there may be collections of cases. The cases that are not moving on those issues, for my clients, for example, we're attempting to engage in settlement discussions with the plaintiffs. So for us, we're not necessarily looking to get bogged down with briefing initially. Obviously, if other parties are engaged in that and taking the lead, we can join or we can participate somewhat.

But the one thing I wanted to raise for your attention is that to the extent there are companies -- I know there's at least a handful that are attempting to engage in settlement discussions that may obviate the need for our participation and streamline altogether anyway, we'd like for them -- for there to be some sort of settlement track that's factored in. But the staged approach to briefing might already have built in some of that -- let's call it protection or carveout timing-wise.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

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1
             MR. SZYBA: Sure. Thank you, Your Honor.
 2
             THE COURT: Sure.
 3
             Good morning.
 4
             MS. PURCARO: Thank you, Your Honor.
 5
             THE COURT: Give us your name.
 6
             MS. PURCARO: My name is Kelly Purcaro. I'm from
 7
    Greenspoon Marder.
 8
             THE COURT: Spell your name, please, for the
 9
    reporter.
10
             MS. PURCARO: P-U-R-C-A-R-O. And I'm the attorney
11
    for Joy Rockwell, and it's Docket Number 4389. Thank you.
12
             THE COURT: Which category are you in?
1.3
             MS. PURCARO: Briefly, Your Honor, I'm in the
14
    complete diversity, 30 category.
15
             THE COURT: Thank you.
16
             MS. PURCARO: And I agree with the recommendation on
17
    the threshold issues. And absolutely the constitutionality
18
    and the assignment issue I think are the main issues that
19
    would be dispositive.
20
             But I wanted to address briefly a note about the
21
    urgency.
22
             I think that one of my concerns, and the reason I'm
23
    not a signatory defendant, is because I don't have the issue
24
    with remand and -- that we anticipate might happen.
25
             THE COURT: What's a signatory defendant?
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1
             MS. PURCARO: The defendants that signed a letter
 2
    that are all coming together as a group. The defendants that
 3
    are --
 4
             THE COURT: These letters that --
 5
             MS. PURCARO: Correct, correct.
 6
             THE COURT: All right.
 7
             MS. PURCARO: One of the issues that we have is,
 8
    number one, not all of the cases seem to have been served, and
 9
    so not all of the cases that will be removed have been
10
    removed.
11
             THE COURT: Right.
12
             MR. PURCARO: So our concern was that for those
1.3
    defendants that are still in the process of retaining counsel
14
    or recently have, they didn't want to miss out on any of the
15
    briefing schedule or any of those things. So your suggestion
16
    would not interfere with those that may come later if all
17
    cases are stayed.
18
             Secondly, we did not want to engage in discovery at
19
    this point if these cases are going to be dismissed. However,
20
    as a former plaintiffs' counsel, I also understand and I think
21
    we all sympathize with the purpose of the law. And Your Honor
22
    mentioned the urgency here.
23
             So one of the things that I wanted to raise for
24
    consideration is the production of the lists of the covered
25
    persons that made the request to the defendants. I know that
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1
    was raised before, but it's worth reiterating.
 2
             THE COURT: Right. Would that be necessary for a
 3
    constitutional challenge?
 4
             MS. PURCARO: I think yes.
 5
             THE COURT: At some point it certainly would be.
 6
             MS. PURCARO: I think yes.
 7
             THE COURT: Why?
 8
             MS. PURCARO: Because if it is constitutional, we as
 9
    the defendants want the ability to know whom it is that
10
    requested the protections under the law. And I can tell
11
    you --
12
             THE COURT: But that would come later. Obviously if
13
    it's held to be constitutional, you're going to be permitted
14
    to get a lot of discovery, because they're seeking damages,
15
    so --
16
             MS. PURCARO: Right. So the issue is that we have a
    complaint in my -- I'll speak to my case that I represent
18
    today as an example. And I know others are in a similar
19
    situation, where we don't know who made the request to us.
20
    And we've been attempting for about three months to get a list
21
    of those requests so we can cross-check for compliance.
22
    Whether it's constitutional or not, we feel best practices is
23
    to protect the information while everybody's waiting for a
24
    decision.
25
            And so we have not been able to get that information
```

```
1
    from the plaintiffs. We don't know who these people are.
    I have other defendants that have reached out saying, I don't
 3
    know who these people are that asked for these protections
    under Daniel's Law.
 5
             THE COURT: Well, you obviously have names. You
 6
    don't know who --
 7
             MS. PURCARO: We do not.
 8
             THE COURT: When people make requests to redact,
 9
    isn't there a name?
10
             MS. PURCARO: So the issue is in my case, it was New
11
    Year's Day, midnight, thousands of emails start coming in.
12
             THE COURT: Okay.
1.3
             MS. PURCARO: My client's system, which usually gets
14
    200 emails a week --
15
             THE COURT: Right.
16
             MS. PURCARO: -- flagged it as a spam attack and shut
    down the email, so we don't know who made the requests.
18
             THE COURT: No. I think your -- I don't understand
19
    what you're saying.
20
             In other words, if I send an email to remove my
21
    information --
22
             MS. PURCARO: Uh-huh.
23
             THE COURT: -- you have my name.
24
             MS. PURCARO: Only if it comes through to my server.
25
             So if you have the @atlas email, it's identified as a
```

```
1
    spam attack, and the email is blocked. It's like the mailbox
 2
    is shut. The letter can't be delivered. We don't have
 3
    visibility into who made the requests.
 4
             So we've been --
 5
             THE COURT: Do you know a request was made?
 6
             MS. PURCARO: That what we're trying to find out.
 7
             THE COURT: Oh, you say you don't even know if a
 8
    request was made?
 9
             MS. PURCARO: We think a couple came in --
10
             (Court reporter clarification.)
11
             THE COURT: All right. The hypothetical John Doe
12
    requests information to be removed, directed at your company.
1.3
    You're saying you don't know that John Doe made the request on
14
    January 1, 2024?
15
             MS. PURCARO: It could have been. If more requests
16
    came in after the spam attack was identified and the door
17
    closed --
18
             THE COURT: You're saying --
19
             MS. PURCARO: So our point is, if people were trying
20
    to make requests --
21
             THE COURT: I see.
22
             MS. PURCARO: -- regardless if they were valid or
23
    not, regardless if they were coverable or not, we still want
24
    to make sure that these folks if they're covered persons and
25
    they made a request, at least for now, we can remove them from
```

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1
    any type of information distribution.
 2
             THE COURT: All right. So what you're saying is that
 3
    because of some blockage, I will call it, on your technology,
    you didn't -- even though somebody may have tried to contact
 5
    you, it was never received?
 6
             MS. PURCARO: Correct.
 7
             THE COURT: All right.
 8
             MS. PURCARO: So my point is, I do agree with the
 9
    approach of the threshold issues, but in the interim, if there
10
    is a stay, I would like the ability, for the benefit of this
11
    defendant and other defendants I have in state court, to be
12
    able to proactively --
1.3
             THE COURT: I see.
14
             MS. PURCARO: -- cross-check the information and
15
    remove folks for now.
16
             THE COURT: I understand.
17
             MS. PURCARO: Without any waiver or any admission,
18
    just to maintain status quo and make sure that anyone that
19
    doesn't want their information out, my folks are doing the
20
    best they can to make sure that it's not released. But
21
    without that information, we cannot do so.
22
             THE COURT: So what you're asking is that the
23
    plaintiffs identify all the individuals and the dates when the
24
    requests were made, the subject of the complaints?
25
             MS. PURCARO: Correct.
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1
             THE COURT: And I assume the plaintiffs have all that
 2
    available electronically? I assume you know who your 19,000
 3
    assignees are?
 4
             MR. SHAW: Yes, Your Honor.
 5
             THE COURT: Assignors, right? All right.
 6
             Thank you very much.
 7
             MS. PURCARO: Thank you, Your Honor.
 8
             THE COURT: Anyone else?
 9
             Good morning.
10
             MR. SPAK: Good morning, Your Honor, my name is Jason
11
    Spak.
12
             THE COURT: Spell your name, please.
1.3
             MR. SPAK: S-P-A-K. One defendant in case number
14
    4176.
15
             And I'm going to make this very quick. We agree with
16
    the notion of teeing up constitutionality first.
17
             And I'd just like to echo prior counsel's comments on
18
    the urgency that my client feels for getting a list of all the
19
    plaintiffs. My company could determine very quickly, number
20
    one, did it redact or otherwise protect the addresses and the
21
    phone numbers of the people if we had a list of them.
22
             THE COURT: Right.
23
                        And, number two, we could also track, did
24
    anybody ask us for information about them, where we possibly
25
    could have provided their address or phone number. And that
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1
    would be very useful for settlement purposes, even while the
 2
    constitutionality argument is going forward.
 3
             So having plaintiffs provide the list which we think
 4
    they already have is not discovery, it's just a way of getting
 5
    everyone who shares an interest in protecting people who under
 6
    the law as it's currently written deserve to be protected,
 7
    getting them protected.
 8
             That's all. Thank you.
 9
             THE COURT: Any other defense counsel?
10
             Yes, sir.
11
             MR. TURNER: Good morning, Your Honor.
12
             THE COURT: Good morning.
1.3
             MR. TURNER: Serrin Turner, T-U-R-N-E-R, from Latham
14
    & Watkins, representing CoStar defendants, LightBox, Oracle,
15
    and PeopleConnect.
16
             THE COURT: Which group are you in, the 30 or the 37?
17
    If you know.
18
             MR. TURNER: I guess it depends on how plaintiffs are
19
    counting it, Your Honor, but I would expect that the
20
    plaintiffs may be contesting subject matter jurisdiction for
21
    our defendants, at least some of them.
22
             THE COURT: All right.
23
             MR. TURNER: But, Your Honor, I just wanted to come
24
    back to the constitutional issue. And first, I think it's
25
    worth emphasizing, that is only one defense that defendants --
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1.3

at least our defendants are considering raising. There are important statutory questions, such as the validity of these requests that were made. We think there are serious questions whether they are valid under the statute.

And there are statutory exceptions that potentially apply to some defendants. And under the document of constitutional avoidance, I think there should be some concern for jumping to the constitutional issues where the cases could be decided on statutory grounds instead.

But on the constitutional issues, I think it's very important -- at least, our defendants to the extent we are considering those defenses, it would be as-applied challenges. There would be challenges that would require a factual record.

So, for example, we're considering a due process challenge. But it would be a due process challenge as applied to the facts here.

Because what happened here is that, as was previewed earlier, the plaintiffs had blasted defendants very intentionally with 20,000 requests at a time, over a holiday period, trying to make it impossible to comply with the ten-day deadline.

(Court reporter clarification.)

MR. TURNER: So while the ten-day deadline might be reasonable on its face, that's one question. But there is a separate question whether it is -- whether it satisfies due

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1
    process here.
 2
             And I would be concerned about that question, that
 3
    constitutional question being decided without a factual record
 4
    about how these requests were made. It's not evident from the
 5
    complaint. And we would want to do discovery into how they
 6
    were made, why they were made this way. We would want a full
 7
    factual record on that issue.
 8
             And the same with the First Amendment. There is a
 9
    potential First Amendment challenge here. But I think that
10
    question is much better decided on the basis of a factual
11
    record, for example, about the nature of each defendant's
12
    business that might be at issue. Because you can imagine that
1.3
    there are some businesses, for example, that have no
14
    functionality, where they actually make plaintiffs'
15
    information or people's information available on the internet.
16
    We're just talking about selling to private subscribers.
17
             THE COURT: Right.
18
             MR. TURNER: And there would be a real --
19
             THE COURT: What difference would that make?
20
             MR. TURNER: Because, Your Honor, in terms of the
21
    interest that's at issue here, which is preventing bad guys
22
    from simply finding people's addresses on the internet --
23
             THE COURT: Right.
24
             MR. TURNER: -- it doesn't really apply to a service
25
    that doesn't function that way.
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1.3

So for a statute to prohibit, you know -- or to apply in that circumstance would not be tailored to the governmental interest at stake.

It's just one example of the sort of argument that requires a factual record that isn't going to be evident from the plaintiffs' complaint here.

So that would be my worry about jumping to litigate constitutional issues on the face of the complaint. The complaint here is very bare bones. And to the extent the defendants want to go beyond the face of the statute to bring constitutional challenges, that's the concern I would have.

THE COURT: So how would you deal with it? On each of the cases then you would have to take discovery, and then it would be years before this would be litigated.

MR. TURNER: As I think was alluded to earlier, I think all defendants here have an interest in obtaining discovery from the plaintiffs about this Atlas operation, how the requests were made, et cetera.

So one possible method of organizing things would be to bifurcate some discovery and allow for that discovery to go forward first, and then we can see where we're at after that discovery ends where things shake out. There may be some cases that settle. There may be some cases that get transferred elsewhere for personal jurisdiction reasons, could be a more limited set of cases to pursue after that where

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1
    discovery could proceed in the opposite direction.
 2
             THE COURT: So there would be discovery with respect
 3
    to all cases then --
 4
             MR. TURNER: As to the plaintiffs. Right. Discovery
 5
    directed to the plaintiffs and the -- how the requests were
    made and the operation of Atlas.
 7
             THE COURT: How what requests were made, requests to
 8
    delete?
 9
             MR. TURNER: The requests to delete, the requests to
10
    suppress the information, yes, Your Honor. Because, again --
11
             THE COURT: You have -- you have 19,000.
12
             MR. TURNER: Uh-huh.
1.3
             THE COURT: So you're going to be asking discovery as
14
    to how each of the 19,000 made the request, whether they
15
    picked up the telephone, whether they did it by email, whether
16
    they sent a letter, whether they walked into the office?
17
             MR. TURNER: No. We know more than that, Your Honor.
18
             The requests were sent in giant email blasts from
19
    Atlas.
20
             THE COURT: Okay. You're not talking about how the
21
    individual contacted Atlas; you're talking about what Atlas
22
    did in contacting the defendants?
23
             MR. TURNER: That, but we would want to understand
24
    the relationship between Atlas and the covered persons.
25
    think that's an important issue.
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1
             THE COURT: So you would be -- so if you want to find
 2
    out, you would have to take discovery on each of the 19,000,
 3
    wouldn't you?
 4
             MR. TURNER: That seems unnecessary, Your Honor.
                                                               Ι
 5
    think it's more a question of Atlas's business practices. I
    don't think it would vary much from covered person to covered
    person. I don't think it would require 19,000 depositions.
 8
             THE COURT: All right. Other defense counsel want to
 9
    be heard?
10
             MR. MacDONALD: Good morning.
11
             THE COURT: Good morning.
12
             MR. MacDONALD: Good morning, Judge. John MacDonald
1.3
    from Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete. I am here on behalf
14
    of Restoration and Append. Those are extensions 4324 and
15
    4178.
16
             One of the 30, I believe.
17
             THE COURT: Okay.
18
             MR. MacDONALD: So, Your Honor, it's just a request.
    With respect to handling the case prior to constitutional
19
20
    challenge and to avoid having to go there if necessary, there
21
    may be -- and I believe there is -- a small subset of
22
    defendants who did delete the information within the ten days.
23
    Plaintiffs' counsel wouldn't know that, of course. They would
24
    have no idea of knowing that.
25
             So the question would be, can we have the required
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1
    meet and confer prior to the constitutional handling in order
    to sort out that issue, because there may be --
 3
             THE COURT: So you're saying there may be some
    defendants who deleted all the information within the ten days
 4
 5
    and, therefore, were in compliance with the statute?
 6
             MR. MacDONALD: Yes. And in order to avoid having
 7
    them have to go through the expense of dealing with the
    constitutional issue needlessly if they are in compliance as
 9
    the plaintiffs seek compliance, we would simply ask that there
10
    be in your order a meet and confer requirement with the
11
    plaintiffs on that topic for that limited group.
12
             Thank you, Judge. Unless you have any further
1.3
    questions --
14
             THE COURT: No. Thank you.
15
             MR. MacDONALD: Thank you, Judge.
16
             THE COURT: Good morning.
17
             MR. DOMINO: Good morning, Your Honor. My name is
18
    Tyler Domino, D-O-M-I-N-O, from Sidley Austin. I represent
    MyHeritage, Case Number 4392.
19
20
             To begin with the buckets, I don't know if we fit in
21
    either of those buckets.
22
             We also raised for removal on fraudulent joinder of a
23
    defendant ground, and it's unclear from the discussion this
24
    morning whether plaintiffs would be challenging that on
25
    remand.
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1.3

But we also raised the other two grounds, CAFA and collusion, which they are challenging. But if they don't challenge fraudulent joinder, then we would be in the 30 bucket as opposed to the 37.

As to your proposal about the constitutional issues, my clients do believe they have a personal jurisdiction argument. And we would be concerned of kind of missing the boat on being able to make those constitutional arguments to you if we had to wait in the background so as to not to waive our personal jurisdiction argument, to be able to make them.

And then finally, I agree with Mr. Turner about that they're mostly going to be as-applied challenges that require a lot of fact-finding maybe on individual defendants and mostly on how Atlas's email system worked.

THE COURT: Well, I think we could establish some kind of an order where if we teed up one issue, you wouldn't be waiving the other issues. In other words, simply because you -- if we did go forward with a constitutional challenge, you wouldn't be waiving your right to personal jurisdiction, the issue of personal jurisdiction. That may be possible. I mean, obviously you wouldn't have to raise all your defenses at once. I mean, normally you may have to do that under the rules, but we can probably fashion some kind of an order to protect you from that.

MR. DOMINO: Okay. If there is a way for Your Honor

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to do that, we would be interested.
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 2
             THE COURT: All right. Let me hear from Mr. Shaw
 3
    now.
 4
             Anybody else from defense counsel wants to speak at
 5
    this point?
 6
             Oh, go ahead. I'll let you -- you've already spoken
 7
    once before, but go ahead.
 8
             MR. KIMREY: Blaine Kimrey again, Your Honor.
 9
             THE COURT: Yes.
10
             MR. KIMREY: Just one quick suggestion on this issue
7 7
    of reservation of all other arguments.
12
             What the Court could do is perhaps take briefing on
1.3
    the facial challenges and say that as-applied challenges are
14
    reserved for the future, but there are facial challenges to
15
    the statute that do not require any discovery to decide on.
16
             THE COURT: Mr. Shaw.
17
             MR. SHAW: Thank you, Your Honor. Adam Shaw for
18
    plaintiffs.
19
             THE COURT: Yes.
20
             MR. SHAW: I think what we're hearing is that there's
21
    a lot of common issues. As to the cases in the bucket that
22
    are going forward, it seems to me that there should be a
23
    process for those parties to make a motion to dismiss to move
24
    those cases forward.
25
             I don't -- you know, I disagree with the notion that
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somehow the case should be stayed or that there's not some
imminence -- some imminence here. We checked yesterday, and
some of these named plaintiffs' information is still out
there. We have pictures of maps with targets on -- dots on
people's houses. So it's very important to protect this
information. This is imminent harm out there.
        Now, the people --
         THE COURT: That raises a question.
         You would be able to supply all defendants relatively
quickly, would you not, the names of the individuals whose
information you sought to have deleted? You have that
electronically, I assume?
        MR. SHAW: Yes, Your Honor. And we can do that.
        But do I want to say, I think that's merits
discovery. And we're happy to do that. But we have
information from them we'd like to get as well.
         THE COURT: No, I understand.
         MR. SHAW: But, yes, we can do that.
         THE COURT: It just seems to me --
        MR. SHAW: Yes.
         THE COURT: -- that if the defendants are genuinely
interested in complying with Daniel's Law in futoro --
         MR. SHAW: For sure.
         THE COURT: -- isn't it in the public interest to
give every defendant the information you have concerning the
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1
    19,000 names that you submitted to them for deletion?
 2
             MR. SHAW: Absolutely, Your Honor. But I do want to
 3
    say that I think it's somewhat contrived, because that
    information has been delivered to them and they have it, you
 5
    know.
 6
             THE COURT: When did you do that?
 7
             MR. SHAW: Each individual covered person sent an
 8
    email themselves, which the Atlas service has verified has
    been delivered to these defendants. So they have it
10
    somewhere. If they put it in their own spam bucket, if they
7 7
    threw it in the garbage, you know, fine.
12
             But I hear Your Honor. We can supply them the names
13
    again, no problem.
14
             THE COURT: Maybe they did throw it away.
15
             MR. SHAW: Right. No problem.
16
             THE COURT: But the point is, let's give it to them.
17
             MR. SHAW: Sure.
18
             THE COURT: How soon could you do that? Aside from
19
    all the other issues today.
20
             MR. PARIKH: Your Honor, Raj Parikh, also on behalf
21
    of the plaintiffs.
22
             THE COURT: Spell your name, please, for the record.
23
             MR. PARIKH: Yes, Your Honor. It's R-A-J, last name,
24
    P-A-R-I-K-H.
25
             THE COURT: Yes, Mr. Parikh, go ahead.
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1
             MR. PARIKH: Thank you, Judge.
 2
             Just -- yes, I'll come up.
 3
             Just to kind of move it back one step so I can answer
 4
    your question directly about providing information to the
 5
    defendants.
 6
             THE COURT: Right.
 7
             MR. PARIKH: So as Mr. Shaw mentioned, each of these
 8
    individual people sent an email through the Atlas email
 9
    service. It's their own personal email account, like a Gmail
10
    account or Yahoo account --
11
             THE COURT: Okay. Right.
12
             MR. PARIKH: -- to the defendants.
1.3
             Those individuals choose which defendants they want
14
    to send requests to.
15
             THE COURT: Okay.
16
             MR. PARIKH: So Mr. Smith may have sent a request to
    three defendants, and Ms. Jones may have sent a request to 20
    defendants.
18
19
             THE COURT: So in other words, what you're saying is
20
    that the -- at least -- I haven't read all the complaints.
21
    I've looked at --
22
             There's a group of 19,000.
23
             MR. PARIKH: Correct.
24
             THE COURT: So what you're telling me is those 19,000
25
    did not send emails to all the defendants that are in these 67
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1
    cases?
 2
             MR. PARIKH: Right. So it's a little bit different
 3
    than that, Your Honor. Let's say there's approximately 20,000
    total covered people --
 5
             THE COURT: Right.
 6
             MR. PARIKH: -- that use Atlas's service.
 7
             THE COURT: Right.
 8
             MR. PARIKH: Any subset of those people -- and it
 9
    usually hovers between 16,000 and 19,000 who have sent
10
    requests to these defendants.
11
             So each list, each compliance list that Your Honor is
12
    asking about, that the defendants are asking for, is
1.3
    different. And so they can be provided, and we have in fact
14
    provided them two buckets.
15
             First, Your Honor, there are multiple data brokers
16
    who receive these requests who reached out and were then
17
    provided the lists at the time and aren't defendants in these
18
    lawsuits because they complied with the law.
19
             There are others here --
20
             THE COURT: Okay. Then, for example, we'll take the
21
    hypothetical John Doe, a police officer in whatever town in
22
    New Jersey.
23
             MR. PARIKH: Uh-huh.
24
             THE COURT: He wants to delete the information that
25
    he has.
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Now, how does he decide -- I mean, there are 67 cases
here, and some of them have multiple defendants. So how does
he decide -- let's say 67, for example. 67 defendants.
doesn't even know the names of some of these companies,
correct?
         MR. PARIKH: I think some of the defendant companies,
that's correct.
         THE COURT: Defendant.
        MR. PARIKH: Correct.
         THE COURT: How does John Doe, the police officer who
wants to get his information deleted, how does he know where
to send the emails?
        MR. PARIKH: Yeah. That's a great question.
         THE COURT: That's Atlas. Correct?
        MR. PARIKH: Absolutely. And that is the privacy
tools that Atlas provides.
         THE COURT: I'm John Doe. I know about Atlas. I go
to Atlas and say, listen, I want my home address deleted.
         So what do you do?
         MR. PARIKH: So Atlas provides through its privacy
tools a list, and John Doe is able to go and look at that list
and say, okay, I would like my information deleted from
information brokers A, B, C and F.
         THE COURT: Okay. So Atlas has a list of -- what are
we talking about? 100? 200? 300? 500?
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             MR. PARIKH: Yeah. I'm not sure of the exact number,
 2
    Judge, but it's hundreds.
 3
             THE COURT: It's hundreds. So John Doe is sitting
 4
    there, a police officer, so he says, okay. I want it deleted
 5
    from all 500 companies on your list, on Atlas's list.
 6
             MR. PARIKH: Correct.
 7
             THE COURT: Does he push one button or does he have
 8
    to push 500 buttons?
 9
             MR. PARIKH: So it depends on if they -- it depends
10
    on which ones they want to do, but it could be either, Judge.
11
    They could push, you know, one or two buttons, or they could
12
    push 400 buttons, let's say, if they had a subset.
1.3
             THE COURT: They have to push 400 individual buttons?
14
             MR. PARIKH: Most people, I think, Your Honor -- it's
15
    checkboxes, you know, to some extent. So you can uncheck
16
    sites that you don't want to have information removed from.
17
             THE COURT: Well, why wouldn't -- hypothetically, why
18
    wouldn't John Doe, if he wants to protect his information, why
19
    isn't his information removed from all 500, unless it's going
20
    to take him ten hours to do it and individually say A, B, C,
21
    and go all the way down the list?
22
             MR. PARIKH: Yeah, it's a great question, Judge. And
23
    I don't have the answer as to what these individual covered
24
    persons decided to do, but we do know the numbers are
25
    different and the requests that were put in were different.
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Some, for example, Your Honor, will ask that their
home address be removed but not their phone number. Others
will have not just their home address but their home address,
they'll also put in information for their spouse, because
covered people include family members, children, et cetera.
         And so I think that also has to do with varying
requests. Right? There may be some websites where, you know,
they have information on a 13-year-old or a 14-year-old that
continues to be published despite a request and other websites
that don't have that type of information because it's real --
         THE COURT: So what you're telling me is Atlas is
able to provide to each defendant the names of the individuals
who request a deletion?
         MR. PARIKH: Correct.
         THE COURT: How many individual defendants do we
have? There are 67 cases. There are more, because some of
them have multiple defendants.
         MR. PARIKH: Correct. So with respect to the
multiple defendants, Your Honor, most of these are -- you
know, it may be a series of websites or a series of
information of interrelated companies. So it may be one kind
of parent corporate entity that operates five businesses, and
that's why you have multiple defendants in one case.
         THE COURT: Right.
         MR. PARIKH: But the request may have gone in either
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1
    to one or two sites because of the way they are structured.
 2
             THE COURT: How soon would you be able to produce
    that information to the defendants? I mean, it's going to be
 3
    different for each defendant, obviously.
             MR. PARIKH: It will, Judge. I'll confer with our
 5
 6
    client.
 7
             I believe that a month may be sufficient time, and we
 8
    can do it on a rolling basis, Your Honor.
 9
             There are defendants in this room that have gotten
10
    that information already.
11
             THE COURT: Well, you don't have to be redundant.
12
             MR. PARIKH: Of course. Understood. I think 30 days
1.3
    is an appropriate amount of time to be able to get that done,
14
    perhaps sooner.
15
             THE COURT: So we say up to 30 days to produce to
16
    each defendant -- how do we characterize that? A list of --
17
             MR. PARIKH: We would -- I mean, we would just call
18
    it a compliance tool, Your Honor.
19
             The one thing I would say is that we do need either a
20
    protective order entered or a nondisclosure agreement from
21
    them given the sensitive nature of the information that's
22
    going to be shared and the fact that these covered people
23
    don't want that information out there.
24
             THE COURT: Well, rather than waste the time on that
25
    at the moment, the Court's order could simply say that this
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1
    information shall not be disclosed except by further order of
    the Court.
 3
             I mean, isn't that a way of sort of getting the ball
 4
    rolling?
 5
             MR. PARIKH: I believe so, Your Honor.
 6
             THE COURT: Because if you wait for protective orders
 7
    for 67 defendants and everybody is going to be nickel and
    diming the protective order, and -- you know, I know how that
 9
    goes.
10
             MR. PARIKH: Well, as Your Honor knows, Appendix S in
11
    this court's rules is the kind of standard protective order.
12
    I think that if we modified it and made sure there was an
13
    attorneys' eyes only provision, that's there's -- you know,
14
    that's the order that's entered --
15
             THE COURT: I could just say that and then if you
16
    want to refine it, at least in the beginning, that could
17
    possibly be done.
18
             MR. PARIKH: Okay. Happy to take a look at that,
19
    Judge.
20
             THE COURT: And --
21
             MR. PARIKH: Judge, the one other thing I wanted
22
    to --
23
             THE COURT: What about this terms -- there's a
24
    document called terms of service.
25
             MR. PARIKH: Yeah, the terms of service issue.
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             So, Your Honor --
 2
             THE COURT: Any reason why that shouldn't be
 3
    produced? That's just a document that the individual signs,
    correct? It's like a contract with your company?
 5
             MR. PARIKH: It is. It is one agreement.
 6
             THE COURT: It's a standard contract?
 7
             MR. PARIKH: It is. And a group of defendants
    requested that under a discovery rule in state court. It was
 8
 9
    produced to them pursuant to an agreement that a protective
10
    order would be entered.
11
             They decided, you know, kind of in -- from my
    perspective, in violation of local Civil Rule 5.3, to include
12
1.3
    it in their notice of removal papers. The rules are
14
    explicitly clear that unless absolutely necessary,
15
    confidential documents should not be filed in an opening --
16
             THE COURT: What's really confidential about it?
    You're a police officer or you're a prosecutor, you're a
18
    judge, whatever, you want to have a contract with you. It's a
19
    standard form. You sign it or you don't.
20
             MR. PARIKH: Absolutely.
21
             THE COURT: Those individuals could easily go out and
22
    make copies of it for their spouses to -- or children to sign.
23
             MR. PARIKH:
                         They could, Your Honor.
24
             I think there's kind of one main component on that.
25
             So if an outsider -- there's, well, actually two main
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1
    components.
 2
             If an outsider looks at that terms of service, they
 3
    may be able to understand better how Atlas's systems work.
    And obviously Atlas takes its security very carefully and
    wants to ensure that it's protecting, you know, not only its
    users but protecting itself from external attacks, et cetera.
 7
    So that's one reason, Your Honor, that we wanted to ensure it
    was confidential.
 8
 9
             The other is that ultimately, you know, it shows the
10
    operational flow for Atlas. We have no problem providing that
11
    document to defendants. We've provided it to some of them.
12
    Obviously we would assert that this gets into merits discovery
1.3
    at the end of the day.
14
             THE COURT: Well, I understand. But we want to try
15
    to be practical here.
16
             MR. PARIKH: Absolutely.
17
             THE COURT: Even though we may open the door a little
18
    bit doesn't mean we're necessarily going to open it all way.
19
             MR. PARIKH: Absolutely.
20
             THE COURT: And that's something that could easily be
21
    done.
22
             MR. PARIKH: Uh-huh.
23
             THE COURT: So that I could enter an order requiring
24
    the compliance list -- is that how you call it?
25
             MR. PARIKH: Sure, yes.
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THE COURT: -- be supplied to every defendant within
30 days. And the terms of service contract I guess it really
is, isn't it? Is that what --
         MR. PARIKH: So I think that the defendants really
have a significant misunderstanding about the way this works,
Judge, in that, you know, I think that's where their flawed
reasoning comes in about the assignments and this issue of
needing the assignments before motion practice.
         The terms of service is a document that governs the
usage of the system. So any judge, you know, prosecutor, law
enforcement officer that wants to use Atlas's privacy tools
agrees to those terms of service as part of their usage of the
privacy tools --
         THE COURT: Well, it seems to me, there's no harm in
supplying that. And I would just say that the compilation
terms of service is protected from disclosure, except by
attorneys, until further order of the Court. And then if you
want to refine what you want to do, that can be done.
         And it just seems to me, you know, in the interests
of compliance with the law, and some defendants say they may
make a good faith effort to delete information, that should be
in your interest too and your clients' interest.
         MR. PARIKH: It absolutely is, Your Honor.
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personal jurisdiction and the other issues we're dealing with.

THE COURT: Regardless of constitutionality and

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1
             MR. PARIKH: That's absolutely right, Your Honor.
 2
             THE COURT: It's without prejudice. It won't
 3
    prejudice you or anybody else.
 4
             MR. PARIKH: And, Judge, you've --
 5
             THE COURT: And it may obviously prevent further
 6
             And you won't collect as much if you're successful in
 7
    the case, but we're talking about the public interest here,
    assuming the statute --
 9
             MR. PARIKH: Your Honor -- so Your Honor, Your Honor
10
    has read the stories that are real stories of real police
11
    officers -- it's not a laughing matter, you know, despite what
12
    defense counsel may laugh about.
1.3
             THE COURT: It seems to me that's something we could
14
    probably do.
15
             MR. PARIKH: Absolutely, Judge. And I think
16
    compliance is very important for us.
17
             I will say, Judge, just two other points.
18
             One is that with respect to -- I think Your Honor is
19
    spot on. Each of these defendants, whether they chose to
20
    throw the requests away or not, have them all, so they could
21
    have compiled the lists. Many of them have.
22
             With respect to the comment regarding the
23
    constitutional challenge in state court, I just want to be
24
    very clear about that.
25
             THE COURT: Yes.
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MR. PARIKH: The ACLU and the plaintiffs in that case
are not challenging the entire constitutionality of Daniel's
Law. It's the first line of their appellate brief. They are
simply challenging in that case whether there should be an
exception for the press.
         That case involves a reporter who wanted
information --
         THE COURT: I see.
        MR. PARIKH: -- and wanted to report on information
regarding a covered person, was advised they couldn't do so.
And that case is very narrowly tailored towards a press
exception, which --
         THE COURT: You say it's in the appellate division?
        MR. PARIKH: It is, Your Honor.
         THE COURT: So it's been decided by a Superior Court
judge, I assume?
         MR. PARIKH: Correct. And the challenge was denied
in the Superior Court, Your Honor.
         THE COURT: All right. Let's hear from --
        MR. PARIKH: I'm going to turn it back over to
Mr. Shaw.
         MR. SHAW: Pardon me, Your Honor. My co-counsel --
         THE COURT: I just want to -- before we get -- on
this issue of the compliance list and the terms, anybody have
any disagreement with that?
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1
             MR. STIO: I want to comment for a second on that.
 2
             THE COURT: All right.
 3
             MR. STIO: One, I don't like the name "compliance
 4
    list," but -- let's call it an assignment list, because I
 5
    don't want any implications.
 6
             THE COURT: Look, we're not going to -- look, call it
 7
    an assignment list. All right?
 8
             MR. STIO: Thank you.
 9
             Two --
10
             THE COURT: That --
11
             MR. STIO: Two, Your Honor, you just can't just give
12
    a list of names. That's one of the problems. Right?
13
             So I get a name Jim Smith, and I have 60 Jim Smiths.
14
    Which one is it? They have to give us personally identifying
15
    information, like an email address.
16
             THE COURT: Well, sure.
17
             MR. PARIKH: The name, address and unpublished phone
18
    numbers. Of course.
19
             THE COURT: Sure.
20
             MR. STIO: The third --
21
             THE COURT: Because there's no way the defendant
22
    could attempt to delete it if it doesn't have the information
23
    that it's supposed to delete.
24
             You're right, there are a lot of Jim Smiths and so
25
    forth.
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1
             MR. STIO: Yeah. And then the third thing that I
 2
    would just ask, because I can't speak on behalf of all the
 3
    defendants --
 4
             THE COURT: Right.
 5
             MR. STIO: -- is enter the order and give defendants
 6
    five days to send an email to the plaintiffs if they want the
 7
    list. This way, defendants who have personal jurisdiction
    arguments or any other arguments --
 9
             THE COURT: No, no, no, no. Don't make life more
10
    complicated.
11
             MR. STIO: Okay.
12
             THE COURT: If they don't want the list, they can
1.3
    throw it away.
14
             MR. STIO: Okay. As long as it's without prejudice.
15
             THE COURT: This business of --
16
             MR. STIO: Thank you.
17
             MR. MAO: Sorry, Your Honor. Mark Mao, Boies
18
    Schiller Flexner for plaintiffs.
19
             THE COURT: Give us your name again.
20
             MR. MAO: Mark Mao, M-A-O.
21
             THE COURT: Yes. Go ahead.
22
             You're with the plaintiffs' firm?
23
             MR. MAO: I am, Your Honor.
24
             THE COURT: Go ahead.
25
             MR. MAO: I just want to make clear, for every single
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1
    defendant who has actually asked for the list, Atlas has
 2
    absolutely provided that.
 3
             THE COURT: All right. That's fine.
 4
             MR. MAO: Right. I just want to make that, because
 5
    people are -- yeah.
 6
             THE COURT: Obviously, if it's been already produced,
 7
    we don't require redundancy. So if defendant X has already
    received it, you don't have to send it to them. All right?
 9
    Clearly.
10
             All right. Thank you.
11
             Yes, Mr. Shaw.
12
             MR. SHAW: Yes. Thank you, Your Honor. Adam Shaw.
1.3
             So kind of getting back to kind of a schedule and the
14
    way it would look --
15
             THE COURT: Yeah. We got sidetracked, but I think
16
    it's important.
17
             MR. SHAW: Yeah.
18
             THE COURT: Because it was raised by one of the
19
    defense attorneys, and I think it makes sense to get the list
20
    out promptly, regardless of what we do with the rest of the
21
    cases.
22
             MR. SHAW: Right. So there's a bucket of cases that
23
    are going forward. I think you heard here that they have some
24
    core defenses that they want to raise, and we think that those
25
    should be raised and brought to the Court.
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1
             Now, some of them, it sounds like some of the
 2
    constitutional issues might be more summary judgment issues,
 3
    not motions to dismiss, but --
 4
             THE COURT: Well --
 5
             MR. SHAW: But the --
 6
             THE COURT: Some of them are apparently facial
 7
    challenges, and according to counsel, others will be
 8
    as-applied.
 9
             MR. SHAW: Right.
10
             THE COURT: Now, do we want to separate that out?
11
    mean, because if you're talking about as-applied, you're going
12
    to have to get into discovery, are we not?
1.3
             MR. SHAW: That's why I think it's not a motion to
14
    dismiss, I think it's something a little bit more than that.
15
             But I think there's a track that could go forward
16
    that doesn't have that involved with it. And I think that the
    track that is on the remand -- potential remand path should
18
    not hold up the rest of the motions that, you know, can take
19
    place in this court and move the case forward.
20
             THE COURT: Right.
21
             MR. SHAW: Those people may have to either join in or
22
    file some other kind of motion later on if they're even here.
23
             But to utilize -- to hold everybody else up doesn't
24
    seem to make sense.
25
             THE COURT: Maybe we could -- in other words, if
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1
    you're going to move to remand a certain number of cases --
 2
             MR. SHAW: Yes, Your Honor.
 3
             THE COURT: And how soon would you be doing that?
 4
             MR. SHAW: Your Honor, if we could have --
 5
             THE COURT: I mean, you've got 37 cases, so you
 6
    obviously have done some thinking about this.
 7
             MR. SHAW: We've done some thinking. And, in fact, a
 8
    lot of their briefs are exactly the same. You know, they're
 9
    almost exactly the same. So if we can make one kind of
10
    omnibus brief and direct it to particular cases where
11
    necessary, we can do that probably in 21 days.
12
             Some of those were due, by the way, as counsel
13
    pointed out. Hopefully Your Honor will give us some
14
    dispensation for --
15
             THE COURT: I did stay everything.
16
             MR. SHAW: Right. So three weeks.
17
             THE COURT: So -- and obviously the stay runs out
18
    today, but we're not going to require people to file anything
    tomorrow, so we'll work that out. Everybody relax.
19
20
             Now, if we -- you file the motion to remand, and
21
    either -- however you did it, you'd have the caption of the 37
22
    cases on the motion, and then the brief would -- to the extent
23
    you have to be -- to individualize it, you discuss it in the
24
    brief.
25
             MR. SHAW: Yes. And I think we could do that in a
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1.3

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very organized way for Your Honor so you would be able to see it.
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THE COURT: And then we would give the defendants an opportunity to respond. And then a reply brief.

And once that's all done, I'm again thinking out loud, maybe at that point we stay those cases, because we have the -- and if we took the 30 cases and dealt with the facial challenge to a statute and deal with that, whoever wanted to file a facial challenge would do it within a certain number of days. Those who don't want to challenge it and have other defenses and so forth can go ahead and file an answer with all the other defenses, you know, challenge the applicability, the constitutional applicability, personal jurisdiction, whatever other defenses you might want to include, and we -- so we get at least the facial issue teed up.

Because if you're talking about as-applied, it's going to be different as to every defendant, and we're going to get bogged down.

But the facial challenge would be the same. People may have different ways of writing their motions, but the issue would be there. I mean, you might cite different cases, and you may -- some people may be more ingenious than others and have different arguments, but it would be teed up.

MR. SHAW: Your Honor, I commend you for that.

That's -- I think we could even be more industrious

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1
    than that. I think there's more issues on a motion to dismiss
 2
    that are common that those people that are in the bucket that
 3
    are staying here can make and they should be asked to make.
 4
             THE COURT: What are the other ones that you --
 5
             MR. SHAW: Arbitration.
 6
             THE COURT: You shouldn't be speaking --
 7
             (Court reporter clarification.)
 8
             THE COURT: Go ahead.
 9
             MR. SHAW: I think there's some common ones, as
10
    you've heard here today: Arbitration. I think some people
11
    would want to challenge some definitions under the statute,
12
    what does it mean to get notice, who is a covered person. If
1.3
    they're going to move to dismiss on those grounds, those are
14
    common.
15
             THE COURT: I don't think arbitration necessarily is
16
    common, because I don't know whether that would be a common
17
    issue or not, because arbitration agreements are written
18
    differently.
19
             Who is the arbitration agreement between, whom and
20
    whom?
21
             MR. SHAW: I don't know. It sounds pretty --
22
             THE COURT: We'll ask defense counsel.
23
             MR. SHAW: But I do think that there's other common
24
    motion -- other common defenses that should be raised and
25
    should not be held hostage by the people who are --
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1
             THE COURT: Let's just take the facial challenge of
 2
    the statute.
 3
             MR. SHAW: Yes.
 4
             THE COURT: That is going to be -- it's going to be a
 5
    common issue to every defendant except those defendants who
    have removed all the names. And there may be some. Maybe you
    made an error in suing some of these because they've complied.
    But we're talking about those that haven't. That issue, it
 9
    seems to me, would be common.
10
             MR. SHAW: I think we have that one. And I think
11
    anything else that's just a standard motion to dismiss under
12
    the statute, saying -- some basis where they're saying the
1.3
    allegations in the complaint don't state a claim under the
14
    statute --
15
             THE COURT: No. Because then it's going to be
16
    different. It may be different for each --
17
             MR. SHAW: Definition under the statute of what does
18
    it mean to get notice, what does it mean to deliver, what does
19
    it mean to disclose. Maybe they're saying we didn't meet
20
    that.
21
             We can hear what their suggestions are.
22
             THE COURT: Yeah.
23
             MR. SHAW: I guess what I'm suggesting is if there
24
    are common defenses, I would ask that those also be made in
25
    the motion.
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1
             THE COURT: Well, assuming there are any.
 2
             MR. SHAW: If there are any.
 3
             I also just want to say, Your Honor, I also think
 4
    there should be a separate bucket. As you've heard here,
    we've been in discussions with some of the defendants about
 6
    potential settlement. And we'd like to continue that, that
 7
    effort, so those cases regardless of their posture should --
 8
             THE COURT: Well, settlement is always in --
 9
             MR. SHAW: Exactly. But that goes to a stay.
10
             THE COURT: In any case. I'm not going to stay a
11
    case -- these cases now with the thought that everybody is
12
    going to settle them and we're all going to go home happy.
1.3
             MR. SHAW: Right. Now, the cases that are -- that go
14
    in the bucket that are going to make a motion to dismiss at
15
    least with regard to a facial challenge, we don't think there
16
    should be a discovery stay as to those. We can -- you know,
17
    we're going to give them some information, and we'd like to
18
    get some information from them as well.
19
             THE COURT: I don't know if there's any need for
20
    discovery if there's going to be a facial challenge. We know
21
    what the statute says. We know what's alleged in the
22
    complaint. I have to throw it out. I don't know what
23
    discovery there would be that would be needed.
24
             MR. SHAW: I'm just saying that the cases can move
25
    forward if there's basic discovery that goes forward.
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1
    don't have to have a general stay of the, you know, meet and
 2
    confer and exchanging of information.
 3
             THE COURT: If the statute is unconstitutional,
    then -- on its face, that's the end of the ball game, isn't
 5
    it?
 6
                        It is. But I think there might be some
             MR. SHAW:
 7
    low-hanging fruit that the parties can continue to do some
    work on that would be efficient, but...
 9
             THE COURT: Well, you're going to have -- or that is
10
    the defendants are going to have the names of everyone who
11
    requested redaction. We just talked about that.
12
             MR. SHAW: Correct.
1.3
             THE COURT: And if those defendants decide that they
14
    are going to redact the information, fine. I mean, that's --
15
    nobody -- you're going to be happy, right?
16
             MR. SHAW: Correct. We're talking about people who
    we believe did not fully delete the information.
18
             (Court reporter clarification.)
19
             THE COURT: That doesn't mean they're not going to be
20
    defendants, because they still have violated the statute under
21
    your theory.
22
             MR. SHAW: Right.
23
             THE COURT: So maybe they've gotten religion late in
24
    the game, but you still have that period before they decided
25
    to redact.
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1
             MR. SHAW: Correct, Your Honor. And that's what
 2
    we --
 3
             THE COURT: Your theory is you would still be
 4
    entitled to damages.
 5
             MR. SHAW: Correct. And there's no basis to stay
 6
    that, especially if there's some basic discovery that we could
 7
    move those cases forward, which I think would be efficient for
    the Court, the cases that are on that track.
 9
             THE COURT: And then if we just dealt with the facial
10
    issue, I'm not saying that's going to -- if the statute is
11
    unconstitutional, we all go home. That's the end of it.
12
    it's constitutional, then we have a slew of other issues.
1.3
    Constitutional on its face.
14
             Then we have as-applied, we have the issue of whether
15
    there was compliance, whether it was -- the way you sought
16
    redaction, whether that was reasonable under the statute, and
17
    whether the ten days is absolutely mandatory, no flexibility,
18
    or if you're, you know, giving them the shotgun approach here
19
    with thousands of names, is it reasonable to expect the
20
    company, that the system wouldn't crash and that they
21
    shouldn't be given more leeway.
22
             And these are all complicated issues for down the
23
    road.
24
             MR. SHAW: Correct. And I'm suggesting that we
25
    can -- we can work on some discovery towards those things that
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wouldn't be burdensome to the parties and that that way, once
the decision is made as to the facial -- if we -- if it's
unconstitutional and we wrap up the tent and go home, then
that happens.
         But if we don't, we wouldn't have wasted -- you know,
we wouldn't have dissipated all of that time, you know,
however long it takes to get to the finding that it is
constitutional.
         THE COURT: But that is not different than any other
case. Somebody files a motion to dismiss --
         MR. SHAW: Correct. And sometimes there's a stay,
sometimes there's not.
         THE COURT: Normally -- forget the constitutionality,
just a motion to dismiss, failure to state a claim under
Rule 12(b)(6).
        MR. SHAW: Right.
         THE COURT: Now, the normal procedure is for the
Court to decide that issue, a run-of-the-mill case, before
allowing discovery to go forward. Isn't that generally the
procedure? I don't remember a case where I would say, okay,
the parties can go forward with all the discovery.
         MR. SHAW: Well, it's not all the discovery. I've
seen in practice where, you know, when there's complex cases
like this in the sense of a lot of parties --
         THE COURT: Right.
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MR. SHAW: -- and you know it's going to take a while
    once you get -- if the case stays to get through discovery --
             THE COURT: Right.
             MR. SHAW: -- that you try to do some of the things
    that are fairly easy to do up front and not have a stay of
    that.
             THE COURT: What are you thinking?
             MR. SHAW: Well, they have some basic information
    about their businesses, you know, basic information about what
    they did with the information when they got it and what they
    did to comply. It's some basic internal contract-type
12
    documents that they would have, I would think.
             We're not talking about, you know, extensive
    depositions or things. We're just talking about some -- the
    kinds of things that you, you know, talk about in
    Rule 26(a)(1), you know, basic documents in the case, basic
17
    information about their setups.
             So we would propose that. So we would propose a
    bucket of people who are here in this court, want to make a
    motion on the facial constitutional grounds, a separate bucket
    of remand track, and then to the extent people that are in
    either of those, also allow for meet and confers and other
    kind of settlement process.
             THE COURT: Well, why don't we take about a 15-minute
25
    recess now and we will return. Thank you.
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1
             MR. SHAW: Thank you, Your Honor.
             THE DEPUTY CLERK: All rise.
 2
 3
             (Recess at 11:16 a.m. until 11:29 a.m.)
 4
             THE DEPUTY CLERK: All rise.
 5
             THE COURT: Have a seat.
 6
             All right. Any defense counsel want to speak to what
 7
    Mr. Shaw was just saying before we recessed?
 8
             Yes?
 9
             MR. KIMREY: Your Honor, may I?
10
             THE COURT: You may.
11
             MR. KIMREY: The issue of arbitration came up.
12
             THE COURT: Yes.
1.3
             MR. KIMREY: And you asked who would be subject to
14
    arbitration and why.
15
             THE COURT: Right.
16
             MR. KIMREY: Would you like me to explain that?
17
             THE COURT: Yeah, I would. Thank you.
18
             MR. KIMREY: So some of the defendants -- and I don't
19
    know all of the defendants for whom this applies or for which
20
    this applies, but some defendants have terms and conditions on
21
    their websites that say that users of the websites and
22
    subscribers to the services that are offered through the
23
    websites subject themselves to the terms and conditions. Some
24
    of that is browsewrap, some of that is clickwrap.
25
             So we want to make sure that in proceeding with the
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1
    facial challenge constitutionally under the First Amendment
    and the New Jersey Free Speech Clause, that that arbitrability
 3
    issue won't be waived.
 4
             I'm concerned that getting into arbitrability now
 5
    could be a morass that the Court could avoid by potentially --
    I know you haven't decided yet, Your Honor --
 7
             THE COURT: Yeah.
 8
             MR. KIMREY: -- but by potentially declaring the
 9
    statute unconstitutional.
10
             And I just want it to be clear on the record and from
7 7
    Your Honor that in proceeding with this constitutional
12
    challenge facially, not as-applied --
1.3
             THE COURT: Right.
14
             MR. KIMREY: -- all other elemental challenges and
15
    defenses are preserved, including, but not limited to,
16
    personal jurisdiction and arbitrability.
17
             THE COURT: All right. Because I -- so the
18
    arbitration agreement is between your company and the police
19
    officer who is seeking to delete the information; is that
20
    correct?
21
             MR. KIMREY: Bingo. Bingo. So each and every one of
22
    these --
23
             THE COURT: So he's assumed to have agreed or he's
24
    deemed to have agreed to the arbitration clause if he seeks to
25
    have the information deleted?
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MR. KIMREY: No, Your Honor. So, many -- for
instance, Whitepages. Many people use Whitepages. There is a
group of potentially 19,000, 20,000 individuals as assignors
who may be users of Whitepages, subscribers of Whitepages.
These are law enforcement officers largely. We also have
judges and prosecutors.
         THE COURT: Right.
         MR. KIMREY: These are people who investigate things,
and they may use Whitepages to investigate those things, and
they may have opted in to the terms and conditions, which not
only provide for arbitrability but also provide for waiver of
class actions, mass actions, et cetera.
         THE COURT: Right.
         MR. KIMREY: But that would entail potentially
discovery as to 19,000 people, which we can avoid if --
         THE COURT: Well, let's assume I'm a police officer
in a town in New Jersey, and I'm worried about my home address
and phone number being available to the public. So I engage
Atlas, and I want them -- I want to delete information.
         So I understand your client, one of the defendants,
has personal information about me. So I click a button or do
whatever you need to do electronically to advise your company
to delete it.
         Now, have I as a police officer in seeking to have
your company delete the information agreed to arbitrate any
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1
    dispute I may have with your company with respect to deleting
    the information?
 3
             MR. KIMREY: If those are the only facts, Your
 4
    Honor --
 5
             THE COURT: Right.
 6
             MR. KIMREY: -- the hypothetical is constrained just
 7
    as you've described it --
 8
             THE COURT: Right.
 9
             MR. KIMREY: -- perhaps not. But I say that without
10
    waiver.
11
             THE COURT: Right.
12
             MR. KIMREY: However, what we found --
1.3
             THE COURT: Nobody is being bound by anything.
14
             MR. KIMREY: -- is that people do more than that. So
15
    what we find is that officer not only facilitated the
16
    suppression request through whatever apparatus Atlas has --
17
             THE COURT: Right.
18
             MR. KIMREY: -- but also was a regular user of the
19
    Whitepages --
20
             THE COURT: To get other people's information --
21
             MR. KIMREY: Right.
22
             THE COURT: -- addresses and phone numbers.
23
             MR. KIMREY: Right. You know, ex-wives, you know,
24
    whatever. So there are a lot of people who use Whitepages.
25
             THE COURT: Okay.
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1.3

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MR. KIMREY: So I just want to be clear, Your Honor, that that arbitrability issue isn't waived and that the personal jurisdiction issue isn't waived as we litigate the remand issues and as we litigate the facial constitutional challenge.
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hypothetically for the moment -- I decided I wanted to go forward with the facial challenge and we give those defendants who sought to challenge the statute facially a certain amount of time to file their motion to dismiss and would say that in filing the motion on facial challenges, the parties are not deemed to have waived any other defense that they may have to this lawsuit, I wouldn't go into the details, personal jurisdiction, arbitrability, whatever else there may be. It seems to me that would protect -- even say, you know, the issue of constitutionality -- any other issue. And that would, it seems to me, protect -- and then anyone who is not interested in doing it would have to file an answer within a certain --

In other words, you have a choice: Motion to dismiss regarding facial challenge with provision of the order, my order, that no other -- any other defense would not be waived by raising it at this time.

Any defendant who does not seek to challenge the facial -- constitutionality facially would file an answer in a

```
1
    certain period of time. And in that answer you raise whatever
 2
    defenses you want to raise.
 3
             MR. KIMREY: That wouldn't work, Your Honor, I don't
    believe, for several reasons.
 5
             THE COURT: Why not?
 6
             MR. KIMREY: First of all, let's go back to
 7
    arbitrability.
 8
             Typically courts find that if you don't move on
 9
    arbitrability early in a case, you just assert it in an
10
    answer --
11
             THE COURT: Then what we would do is we would say in
12
    the order, all defenses -- and I would specifically reference
13
    arbitrability, because -- I would specifically mention that
14
    you're not waiving the issue of arbitrability, because I agree
15
    with you, if you don't raise it early, you're out of the box
16
    often. But if we put that in the order, that should protect
17
    you.
18
             MR. KIMREY: So in other words, what you're saying,
19
    Your Honor, is, you answer but you can also still move based
20
    on arbitrability when you answer. Or you can also still move
21
    on personal jurisdiction.
22
             THE COURT: Well, let's assume you file an answer.
23
    You don't file a Rule 12(b)(6) motion in an ordinary case.
24
    And you say as one of your affirmative defenses, failure to
25
    state a claim upon which relief can be granted, or you raise
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1
    personal jurisdiction, or you raise statute of limitations,
    all kinds of issues that can be raised by affirmative
 3
    defenses.
 4
             Can't that later be litigated if you don't -- in
 5
    other words, I think there is a provision in the Federal
    Rules, if you raise one defense by Rule 12(b)(6), you've got
    to raise them all, you can't cherry pick.
 8
             But if I had an order which gave -- permitted it,
 9
    that would protect you, wouldn't it?
10
             MR. KIMREY: Well, Your Honor, I think you can issue
11
    an order saying, we'll take briefing on the facial
12
    constitutional challenge --
1.3
             THE COURT: Right.
14
             MR. KIMREY: -- and all other defenses are preserved.
15
             But I think that assuming -- let's say the Court
16
    finds that the statute is facially constitutional.
17
             THE COURT: Right.
18
             MR. KIMREY: And let's say the Court certifies it
19
    under 28 U.S.C. 1292 for decision by the circuit.
20
             THE COURT: Right, right.
21
             MR. KIMREY: And let's say the circuit agrees with
    Your Honor.
22
23
             THE COURT: Right.
24
             MR. KIMREY: And then there's a petition for cert to
25
    the US Supreme Court.
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1
             THE COURT: Right.
 2
             MR. KIMREY: And let's say that's denied.
 3
             THE COURT: Right.
 4
             MR. KIMREY: And it comes back down.
 5
             I think a lot of defendants are going to want to then
 6
    file either motions to dismiss or perhaps more appropriately
 7
    termed motions for judgment on the pleadings related to issues
    beyond the facial constitutional challenge, such as personal
 9
    jurisdiction --
10
             THE COURT: Right.
11
             MR. KIMREY: -- perhaps improper joinder --
12
             THE COURT: Right.
1.3
             MR. KIMREY: -- perhaps Twombly/Iqbal arguments
14
    about, you know, plausibility of pleading. And they won't
15
    feel comfortable with just asserting those things in their
16
    answer --
17
             THE COURT: Right.
18
             MR. KIMREY: -- because they'll want to move on those
19
    things because they'll be interested in having those issues
20
    decided at the --
21
             THE COURT: So what we could say, then, and what
22
    you're suggesting is we go forward with the facial challenge
23
    and that any party that makes a facial challenge that can --
24
    it's without prejudice to raising any other defense. And I
25
    might even say including arbitrability, once the
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1
    constitutionality issue has been resolved or until further
    order of the Court.
 3
             MR. KIMREY: Yes.
 4
             THE COURT: We can do it that way.
 5
             MR. KIMREY: Exactly, Your Honor.
 6
             THE COURT: So you wouldn't have to file an answer.
 7
    Everything would just be held in abeyance until that issue is
    decided.
 8
 9
             MR. KIMREY: Sure. And then, you know, if it goes
10
    all the way up to the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court
7 7
    doesn't grant cert or affirms the --
12
             THE COURT: Then we're back to square one, and we'll
1.3
    be back here talking about what we do next.
14
             MR. KIMREY: But the facial challenge would be
15
    resolved, which is kind of the elephant in the room. I think
16
    that's why you raised it.
17
             THE COURT: Yeah, yeah.
18
             MR. KIMREY: And we can move on to the other issues
19
    that --
20
             THE COURT: And that wouldn't prevent challenges to
21
    the constitutionality of the statue as applied. It wouldn't
22
    prevent --
23
             MR. KIMREY: -- by discovery.
24
             THE COURT: -- arbitration, personal jurisdiction,
25
    whatever else anybody can think of they would want to raise.
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1
             MR. KIMREY: Right. And they --
 2
             THE COURT: And also -- and obviously you'd have --
 3
    maybe have some statutory defenses too.
 4
             MR. KIMREY: Sure.
 5
             THE COURT: But that would depend on the discovery
 6
    and that kind of thing.
 7
             MR. KIMREY: Yes.
 8
             THE COURT: Yes. Mr. Shaw?
 9
             MR. SHAW: Your Honor, the issue I have -- the issue
10
    we have with that is that adds potentially a year of nothing
11
    taking place and then a second round of motions.
12
             Some of these cases that are in the buckets where
1.3
    they're here, it's effectively a stay which could be up to a
14
    year in this case.
15
             MR. KIMREY: Your Honor, it's not because of the
16
    information you may require them to produce, which is the
17
    names and the PII, the personally identifiable information.
18
             THE COURT: That they're going to do. We're going to
19
    put that in an order.
20
             MR. KIMREY: So that we're going to get the relief --
21
    I mean, I don't think anybody here is wanting to, despite
22
    Daniel's Law, publish the addresses and phone numbers of New
23
    Jersey judges, police officers and prosecutors. I think we
24
    all collect -- again, I just represent two of the defendants.
25
             THE COURT: Right.
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1
             MR. KIMREY: I speak for my defendants and I guess I
 2
    speculate as to the others, it's informed speculation, we all
 3
    want to suppress that information.
 4
             So the harm, the alleged harm that's occurring, is
 5
    going to be addressed right away with this production that you
    may order, Your Honor.
 7
             THE COURT: Right.
 8
             MR. KIMREY: And on the assignments, I just want to
 9
    make a point that was mentioned to me during the break.
10
             My understanding is that the terms and conditions
11
    that Atlas has are not uniformly the assignment agreements
12
    from the assignors. So we ask in your order, Your Honor, that
1.3
    you not only order that those terms and conditions be
14
    produced, but if there are separate assignment agreements that
15
    are beyond those terms and conditions, that those be produced
16
    as well.
17
             THE COURT: Wouldn't it all be the same? I mean,
18
    wouldn't that be a part of --
19
             MR. KIMREY: I don't know.
20
             THE COURT: I don't know.
21
             MR. KIMREY: Somebody told me this, that --
22
             THE COURT: So you mean that after they sought the
23
    information to be deleted and prior to the filing of this
24
    lawsuit, there were assignments?
25
             MR. KIMREY: Right. So somehow all of these police
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1
    officers and perhaps judges and law enforcement officials --
 2
             THE COURT: Right.
 3
             MR. KIMREY: -- assigned their rights under Daniel's
 4
    Law to Atlas to prosecute -- to pursue and prosecute on their
 5
    behalves.
 6
             Atlas has suggested that those assignments are
 7
    reflected in their standard terms and conditions. So in other
    words, it sounds to me like Atlas is suggesting that there is
 9
    a uniform assignment agreement that all of the assignors sign.
10
             THE COURT: I see. Which is part of the terms and
11
    conditions --
12
             MR. KIMREY: Right.
1.3
             THE COURT: Which is part of the terms --
14
             MR. KIMREY: I've been told that that is not the
15
    case, that there are actually different forms of assignment
16
    that may be in -- and you would know, obviously.
17
             THE COURT: Mr. Shaw, maybe you can --
18
             MR. SHAW: Yes, Your Honor. Adam Shaw. I can clear
19
    it up.
20
             There is a form of assignment that's different than
21
    the terms of conditions. And we can also give them an
22
    exemplar of that. They're all --
23
             THE COURT: All right. Well, we'll include that too.
24
    It will be the assignment form -- is that what it's called?
25
             MR. PARIKH: Your Honor -- I apologize.
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1
             THE COURT: State your name, please.
 2
             MR. PARIKH: Yes. Rajiv Parikh.
 3
             Judge, so the process -- you know, this is what I
 4
    alluded to earlier. Happy to just kind of make it very clear
 5
    for everyone.
 6
             Your Honor is 100 percent correct. Once a request
 7
    was put in and the defendants violated the timeline, then
    prior to filing of the lawsuit, an assignment was entered into
    between Atlas and the covered person who was assigning their
10
    claims.
11
             There are, you know, let's say --
12
             THE COURT: 19,000.
1.3
             MR. PARIKH: -- 19,000 per defendant, Judge.
14
             So if they want an example or want a couple of them,
15
    we're happy to provide those to them.
16
             But what we're really talking about here is the
    defendants trying to get into merits discovery early on in the
18
    case.
19
             And what I will say, just on one point, not to
20
    besmirch any counsel here, multiple counsel have come up here
21
    and said they want to comply with Daniel's Law, but as I said
22
    earlier, as we stand here today, there is a named plaintiff
23
    who all of them know the name of whose information still
24
    exists when you go online onto multiple of these defendants'
25
    websites, so --
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THE COURT: I'm not going to require all of the
assignments, because -- at this point because that I don't
think is relevant to the facial challenge to the statute,
because you do have individual plaintiffs here.
         MR. KIMREY: Your Honor, it's relevant -- I agree,
Your Honor, it's not relevant to the facial challenges, but
it's relevant to -- and I'm speaking in a vacuum because I
haven't seen a motion to remand yet.
         THE COURT: Right.
         MR. KIMREY: But it could be relevant to the motion
to remand.
         For instance, we have argued that Atlas's Delaware
registration should be disregarded for purposes of traditional
Strawbridge v. Curtiss diversity, because it's not the real
party-in-interest in the case. The assignors are the real
parties-in-interest, the actual named plaintiffs. And there
is case law and there is a trend in the US recognizing this
more and more.
         THE COURT: Right.
         MR. KIMREY: Wright & Miller addresses this trend, in
fact, Your Honor --
         THE COURT: Right.
         MR. KIMREY: -- saying that if the assignee is not
really the real party-in-interest -- and the term of art is
"collusion."
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1
             THE COURT: Right.
 2
             MR. KIMREY: But it's not collusion as you think of
 3
    collusion. That sounds worse than the actual concept.
 4
             THE COURT: Right.
             MR. KIMREY: But if it's a collusive issue, then you
 5
 6
    can disregard that Delaware citizenship, which matters to us,
 7
    Your Honor, because Whitepages and Hiya are both registered in
    the state of Delaware as well. So we've argued that you
 9
    disregard that citizenship.
10
             These assignments are material because some of the
11
    case law suggests that there are many factors that go into
12
    whether you disregard the citizenship of the assignee. One of
1.3
    those factors -- and it's not a necessary factor, but it's a
14
    factor that courts have considered -- is whether the
15
    assignments are complete or partial, the theory being that if
16
    the assignor holds on to an interest in what is being
17
    assigned, then that diminishes the significance of the
18
    citizenship of the assignee. Because those people, those
19
    assignors, those police officers, judges and prosecutors,
20
    still have an interest.
21
             Politico ran -- was it Politico? Maybe it wasn't
22
    Politico. There was an article that ran recently about this
23
    litigation in the press. And it said -- I don't know how they
24
    obtained this, but it said that plaintiffs' counsel is
25
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operating under I think a third contingency, a third

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1
    contingency fee with respect to this case.
 2
             If that is the case, then -- and that would be
 3
    reflected in those assignments, right, perhaps, then that goes
    to the issue of remand, because it shows that the assignors
 5
    maintain an interest in, you know, the corpus of the case, so
 6
    to speak.
 7
             So that's why the assignments are not material -- I
 8
    agree, subject to what everybody else here has to say --
 9
             THE COURT: Right.
10
             MR. KIMREY: -- they're not material to the facial
11
    challenge under the Constitution.
12
             THE COURT: I understand.
1.3
             MR. KIMREY: But they may be material to the remand
14
    issue, depending on what they argue in their motion to remand.
15
             THE COURT: Well, why don't we this. In terms of the
16
    remand, we set a date for the remand motions. Then everybody
17
    will have an opportunity to look at them. And we'll have a
18
    status conference on that subject so you can then -- those who
19
    are subject to the motion to remand, we can discuss whether or
20
    not you should be entitled to discovery related to the
21
    remands.
22
             MR. KIMREY: Yes, Your Honor.
23
             THE COURT: And depending on how that works out, you
24
    get discovery, then you'll be permitted certain discovery and
25
    then you'll file your brief in opposition thereafter.
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1
             So I think we can deal with that. We can't deal with
 2
    it today, because we don't know what the remand motion is
 3
    going to say.
 4
             MR. KIMREY: Right, right.
 5
             THE COURT: So, now --
 6
             MR. SHAW: Pardon me, Your Honor. Adam Shaw.
             Just on that score, if we could avoid that step, we
 7
 8
    can give them an exemplar of the assignment and they could use
 9
    that to the extent that they need to use it. So that way we
10
    don't have to make the motion and then have a separate
11
    conference, because our concern is to move it forward.
12
             MR. KIMREY: I appreciate that.
1.3
             May I address counsel?
14
             THE COURT: Sure.
15
             MR. KIMREY: Is the assignment the same across all of
16
    the --
17
             MR. SHAW: We'll give you exemplars of -- so that you
18
    have the field covered.
19
             MR. PARIKH: They won't be the same, because clearly
20
    it will be a different name of a person on there. But if what
21
    you're asking is for the form of the assignment, then we're
22
    happy to produce that.
23
             MR. KIMREY: To the extent there are different forms,
24
    you'll produce of an exemplar of each of the different forms?
25
             MR. SHAW: Yes.
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1
             MR. STIO: Your Honor?
 2
             THE COURT: Go ahead.
 3
             MR. STIO: Angelo Stio.
 4
             I think to move this along, and I think what I'm
 5
    hearing is facial challenge, they will give the list of names
    that will help reduce prejudice, exemplars of the assignment,
 7
    but why are we going to go down the road of remand? Let's
    stay everything, do the facial challenge. The Court and the
 9
    court's clerk focuses on that issue, gets a decision, before
10
    we go down all these rabbit holes.
11
             THE COURT: I think we need to have the motions for
12
    remand filed. They can be done. That doesn't mean we're
1.3
    going to decide them. But I think that's an important step.
14
             MR. STIO: I'm fine with that.
15
             THE COURT: The USC says -- so everybody knows what
16
    they're talking about. I think there's -- that we should do.
17
    We should get those filed. And the question then is whether
18
    we should have responses to the motions to remand.
19
             I won't necessarily decide it, but shouldn't we get
20
    it ready to go?
21
             MR. STIO: What I'm saying is, Your Honor, is that --
22
    I am happy with your approach of they file the motion to
23
    remand, we look at it, we have a case management conference to
24
    see if there's discovery.
25
             But what I didn't want is to go down rabbit holes
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1
    with the discovery on a motion for remand when the focus
 2
    should be on the facial challenge, because that's the silver
 3
    bullet.
 4
             THE COURT: I understand. I'm thinking, though, how
 5
    much discovery would you think would be contemplated on a
    motion to remand?
 7
             MR. STIO: I don't know.
 8
             THE COURT: And obviously, you haven't seen it.
 9
             MR. STIO: Yeah.
10
             THE COURT: But would it be extensive, do you think?
11
             MR. STIO: I don't think it would be extensive. But
12
    I like -- I'm fine with the approach of they file it, we look
13
    at it, we have a case management conference.
14
             THE COURT: Let's do it that way. That's what we'll
15
    do.
16
             MR. STIO: Thank you, Your Honor.
17
             THE COURT: We'll have the motion to remand, then
18
    we'll see where we are.
19
             How soon -- I hope we can get these motions to remand
20
    filed fairly --
21
             MR. SHAW: I think 21 days. Is that fair, Your
22
    Honor?
23
             THE COURT: What date?
24
             MR. SHAW: What date do we have for that?
25
             MR. PARIKH: We can do May 15th, Your Honor. Does
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1
    that make sense? That's a couple weeks away.
 2
             MR. SHAW: May 15th?
 3
             THE COURT: Well, I have a criminal trial that starts
    the 10th of May, which is a Friday, and it may go the
 5
    following week, and I'm going to be away around Memorial Day.
 6
             I'm wondering if we can't -- whether we -- I know you
 7
    have 37 of them, so --
 8
             MR. SHAW: Yeah.
 9
             THE COURT: Some are going to be different, aren't
10
    they.
11
             MR. SHAW: Slightly different, but I believe they're
12
    mostly the same.
1.3
             THE COURT: Do what?
14
             MR. SHAW: They're mostly the same from what we've
15
    seen so far.
16
             THE COURT: Well --
17
             MR. SHAW: Are you asking to have it before your
18
    criminal trial, Your Honor?
19
             THE COURT: Yes. I'm just wondering whether we can
20
    do it --
21
             MR. SHAW: That's the 10th?
22
             THE COURT: Yeah.
23
             How about, we could do it by -- how about the 6th is
24
    Monday. How about the Friday before that, the 3rd of May? Is
25
    that doable? May 3rd --
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1
             MR. SHAW: Okay, Your Honor. We'll endeavor to do
 2
    that.
 3
             THE COURT: -- motions for remand should be filed.
 4
             And then I was hoping maybe that week to have another
 5
    status conference.
 6
             Maybe we can do it on the 7th of May. And there may
 7
    be some other things we talk about. We'll say 10:00 on the
    7th of May we'll gather again. And we can talk about whether
 9
    the remand -- or the briefing should occur on the remand
10
    motion, whether there will be discovery or whether it will be
11
    stayed until we deal with --
12
             Now, on the facial challenge, thinking about a day
1.3
    that we would -- maybe on the -- the parties can get together
14
    and discuss a method for dealing with the facial challenge.
15
             Now, we have 30 cases where we may have motions -- in
16
    other words, we'd order a motion to dismiss based on a facial
17
    challenge to be filed by a certain date. The Court would then
18
    say, all other defenses would be stayed, without prejudice and
19
    all the rest of it, until further order of the Court. And
20
    then we'd set a briefing schedule and so forth.
21
             Now, the question becomes, we have 30 briefs. Now,
22
    maybe the parties can get together and talk about that subject
23
    as to how that's going to work out.
24
             Also, we have the 37 defendants who are going to be
25
    subject to your remand motions. And they're also going to be
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interested in the issue of the facial challenge. And maybe
what we could do is allow them to -- I don't know, maybe if
they want to file amicus briefs so they can get their views
heard without waiving -- because your claim is we don't even
have jurisdiction over them.
         MR. SHAW: Correct.
         THE COURT: So they would be arguing something in a
case where you say there's no subject matter -- they say there
is, you say there isn't.
         MR. SHAW: Right.
         THE COURT: But to decide all 37 of those cases
before -- assuming you lost it, then they would have a right
to brief it. And I don't want to delay it for long. I want
to get to the facial challenge but give them the right also to
have their say if they wish to do so. Because even though it
may not be collateral estoppel or res judicata, I mean, we
have to be practical about it.
         MR. SHAW: You're right, Your Honor. But if I could
take a step back to the bigger picture --
         THE COURT: You may.
         MR. SHAW: And, excuse me, it's Adam Shaw.
         We're building in to that process a second round of
motions to dismiss.
         THE COURT: We really are, because --
        MR. SHAW: You're necessarily building it in.
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1
    that's -- and our concern is that that is a massive delay in
 2
    our ability to prosecute the cases.
 3
             THE COURT: How do you suggest I deal with the
    defenses in 67 cases?
 5
             MR. SHAW: The same way that we're making motions
 6
    that you're going to potentially put on --
 7
             THE COURT: How long do you think it's going to take
    me to decide 67 -- multiple motions, arbitration --
 9
             MR. SHAW: Perhaps the parties could just file them.
10
             THE COURT: Wait a minute. Arbitration and -- so
11
    you're saying they ought to file all their motions within a
12
    certain time?
1.3
             MR. SHAW: Yes.
14
             THE COURT: And then just have the -- but further
15
    action would be stayed except for the issue of facial
16
    challenge to the constitutionality?
17
             MR. SHAW: Right. I mean, a lot of times, you know,
18
    in these cases, whether it's an MDL or large coordination,
19
    sometimes you have the parties file their briefs and at least
20
    get it fully briefed, even if Your Honor is only dealing with
21
    one of those briefs or one of the issues in those briefs.
22
             Also, as we've heard, I mean, they wrote a letter
23
    saying that there should be coordination and that they're
24
    willing to coordinate.
25
             I think even though it's 37 people, I think you'll
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find much fewer issues, different issues, raised. And with
the goal of having the ability to move it forward, it may be
best to require those people who are in the bucket that are
here to file their briefs on whatever defenses that they could
raise, and then the facial part of it can go forward.
other parts could be there. It would be a burden on us that
we can respond to it.
         Hopefully they could be coordinated in the sense that
they're be smaller, and then Your Honor could at least have
them on a pile.
         THE COURT: Of course the problem with that is, let's
assume they filed all their motions and that I would only
focus on the facial constitutionality of the statute. We
wouldn't get around to fully briefing it for many months
maybe.
         And then, of course, there's always changes in the
law.
      There are different, more -- new decisions come out.
And then everybody will be asking for supplemental briefing.
I mean, that's inevitable. Then --
         MR. SHAW: Well, the flip -- pardon me, Your Honor.
         The flip side, though, is these counsel saying, well,
once you give us the list, everything is fine. We're going to
take care of protecting interests.
         THE COURT: No, I'm not saying --
        MR. SHAW: They said that.
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But that's what's the burden is on us, that we're not
able to prosecute our case for the year, whatever amount of
time it takes, let's say six, nine months, for that
constitutional challenge to weave its way through the courts
and then come back and essentially starting at square one
again on all the other defenses.
         I'm suggesting that there should be a path that
doesn't do that, that only benefits the defendants in allowing
all of their motions to be serial, to have come here and made
a choice to try to remove, and then to wait and see how things
happen on other issues and then come back again.
multiple motions to dismiss. It's built into the process that
it's a delay and prevents us from prosecuting.
         THE COURT: Any defense counsel wish to speak to
that? Yeah.
         MR. KIMREY: Blaine Kimrey again.
         THE COURT: Yes.
         MR. KIMREY: They haven't moved for injunctive
relief, Your Honor.
         THE COURT: They what?
         MR. KIMREY: They haven't moved for injunctive
relief.
         I'm not asking that they do so. They could, you
know, if they were seeking to enforce the statute and they're
claiming that we're not abiding. And I'm not aware of
Whitepages and Hiya not abiding. They haven't given me any
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1
    evidence of that. They haven't moved for injunctive relief.
 2
             THE COURT: Right.
 3
             MR. KIMREY: So the claim about delay rings hollow if
 4
    the issue is getting this information suppressed and it
 5
    allegedly hasn't been suppressed, because, again, they haven't
    moved for injunctive relief.
 7
             And that they're the ones who filed 100-some-odd
 8
    cases. You can't file that many cases at once, essentially,
 9
    and expect for things to move quickly, particularly when you
10
    haven't moved for injunctive relief.
11
             And what the Court is proposing, or at least what I
12
    hear what I think the Court is proposing, is an efficient way
1.3
    to approach this situation. And the constitutional -- the
14
    facial constitutional challenge is clearly potentially case
15
    dispositive. Cases dispositive.
16
             THE COURT: All right. Yes?
17
             MR. MAO: I'm sorry, Your Honor. Mark Mao for the
18
    plaintiffs.
19
             So, Your Honor, with regard to the exigency issue
20
    that opposing counsel just raised, one of the reasons why
21
    we've been proceeding as we have is, first of all, Atlas is
22
    not that large of a company. And Atlas has been engaging in
23
    meet and confers and attempts to resolve the compliance issue
24
    with every defendant that's expressed an interest to go into
25
    compliance.
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1.3

In terms of an injunction not being filed, it's because the vast majority of these defendants have expressed, just as opposing counsel said, that they want to comply, they understand the importance of compliance, and they're going to try to do so.

The problem is, every time they've made that representation, the vast majority of the time we come back and we look and we test the systems again to see whether or not these companies are truly suppressing or deleting the information, we continue to find that the information either gets repopulated or they were never removed.

So to say that, you know, plaintiffs have not been diligent in terms of pursuing an injunctive relief, it's also partially on the basis that defendants have continued to express and assure plaintiffs that they be going into compliance. It's a little disingenuous, Your Honor. And I think one of the problems here is if these defendants are going to remove and put the case in front of Your Honor, you can't both say, well, we want to move forward with the common issues, figure out from the common issues whether or not we, some of the defendants, want to subscribe to what the Court has ultimately found and then decide at that point whether or not we want to try to remand.

For the plaintiffs there is exigency, because we want to make sure the covered persons are actually taken care of

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    and protected, as defendants have acknowledged.
 2
             If defendants do not want to subscribe to the
 3
    jurisdiction of this Court, let's say you're group one, right,
    or there's --
 5
             THE COURT: They do want to subscribe to the
 6
    jurisdiction of the Court. You're the ones who don't want to
    subscribe.
 8
             MR. MAO: Well, Your Honor, to be clear, to be clear,
 9
    the issue of whether or not their motion was valid, right,
10
    versus whether or not we after discussing internally may
11
    ultimately seek to remand, that's a right in which we're
12
    reserving.
1.3
             THE COURT: No. I understand. And theoretically, if
14
    we do not have subject matter jurisdiction, you don't have any
15
    choice.
16
             MR. MAO: Right, Your Honor. And that was one of the
    things which Mr. Shaw is trying to address, right, which is to
18
    just get ahead of the issue of, we don't want Your Honor
19
    making decisions and findings which ultimately somebody there
20
    is going to say well, Your Honor, you don't have jurisdiction
21
    over that issue anyways. We are trying to avoid that.
22
             But to suggest that there's no exigency, I would like
23
    to think that everybody in this room, as defendants have
24
    represented, understand that there is exigency here.
25
             So part of the issue here is, how do we -- how do we
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get there? And I agree with my colleague, Mr. Shaw, not
because we're at the same firm, but because of the fact that
one of the reasons why we're saying that for the ones that
aren't on this Track A or Track 1, as Your Honor had
identified, if they're not going to comply, we should be
entitled to move forward.
         THE COURT: All right. I think what we're going --
yeah, go ahead.
         MR. LEE: Your Honor, just --
         THE COURT: State your name.
         MR. LEE: James Lee, Boies Schiller for the
plaintiffs, Judge.
         THE COURT: Yes.
         MR. LEE: There's just one logistical issue I wanted
to make you aware of.
         THE COURT: Go ahead.
         MR. LEE: We've been talking about this group of 67
cases, and one of them is not like the others. The one that's
not like the others, the party in that case, the defendant in
that case is LexisNexis. And we filed the Daniel's Law
complaint against LexisNexis alleging very similar things as
the complaints you've seen here. That's in New Jersey state
court.
         But LexisNexis did something that no one else did.
What they did in response was retaliate against the covered
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persons and froze their credit and reported identity theft,
which means that the covered persons that sent the takedown
request to LexisNexis, any time they want to engage a service
that requires a credit check, they can't have it. They can't
buy a car. They can't rent an apartment. And so I personally
sent a letter to LexisNexis about this. They ignored it.
         THE COURT: Now, who are you representing?
         MR. LEE: I represent Atlas and the plaintiffs.
         THE COURT: All right. I understand.
                  So we were forced to file a second case.
         MR. LEE:
It's a class action against LexisNexis. It's about the
retaliation of freezing their credit pursuant to the New
Jersey Identity Theft Protection Act.
         So it's not a Daniel's Law case. That's the case --
         THE COURT: And that's pending where?
         MR. LEE: That's pending before you now.
         So that got -- that case, not the Daniel's Law case.
That still sits in New Jersey state court. That case, that
class action, got removed here and transferred to you, and
now, I assume --
         THE COURT: When did that happen? That's just
recently?
         MR. LEE:
                  Just recently, Judge. So it's not part of
the caption in your order.
         THE COURT: Okay.
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MR. LEE: And I think they removed it after.
                                                      I'm not
really sure they did it timely either. But I just wanted you
to be aware that that case sits here, because we're talking
about ordering things and ordering things in the Daniel's Law
cases.
         THE COURT: Right.
         MR. LEE: And I understand your position on that.
But all I'm saying is the class action is different.
         THE COURT: Okay.
         MR. LEE: And that can't be delayed or set to the
side while we wait for some of these facial issues on Daniel's
Law to be resolved, because this is legitimately about
people's ability to live their lives.
         THE COURT: Okay. Well, I haven't looked at that
complaint.
         What's the number of that case?
         MR. LEE: That number is 04566, Judge.
         THE COURT: 056 -- it's 24, you mean?
         MR. LEE: 04566.
         THE COURT: 04566. Well, that maybe we should also
tee up at the conference on the 7th --
         MR. LEE: Certainly.
         THE COURT: -- after I have had a chance to look it.
And you'll be here, I assume, and we can talk about that.
        MR. LEE: Thanks, Judge.
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1
             THE COURT: All right. Now, wait a minute.
 2
             MR. ROONEY: Your Honor, can I --
 3
             THE COURT: Sure. Absolutely.
 4
             Please give us your name again.
 5
                         Gavin Rooney from Lowenstein Sandler.
             MR. ROONEY:
 6
    represent LexisNexis on that case that counsel just alerted
 7
    Your Honor to.
 8
             THE COURT: Go ahead.
                                    Right.
 9
             MR. ROONEY: We have a very different view of the
10
    merits of the case. From our perspective, we did exactly what
11
    these covered persons and Atlas asked us to do, which was to
12
    redact and remove names and addresses from information that's
1.3
    given to others.
14
             We're in the business of providing credit reports, so
15
    the way you do that is you impose a freeze on a credit report.
16
    And if that's not what Atlas and the covered persons wanted,
17
    well, they should have thought this through before they made
18
    the request.
19
             So in terms of the merits of the case, we would be
20
    prepared to file a motion to dismiss, and we would certainly
21
    be willing to discuss that with Your Honor on the 7th after
22
    you've had a chance to look at the complaint, since the
23
    complaint is not the same pattern complaint as you see with
24
    the other cases.
25
             THE COURT: I understand.
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1
             MR. ROONEY: Thank you.
 2
             THE COURT: All right. Good morning. Or good
 3
    afternoon.
 4
             MR. STICHEL: Your Honor, Mark Stichel, and I
 5
    represent eMerges in case 4434. And I just come with a
 6
    housekeeping matter.
 7
             We come to the beginning of the hearing where you
    mentioned pro hac vice motions.
 9
             THE COURT: Yes.
10
             MR. STICHEL: I know one has been filed on my behalf.
11
    There are others that have been filed. And we've received an
12
    automatic message from the clerk's office saying that it will
1.3
    be heard on May 20, 2024.
14
             So the question is, is there any way we can expedite
15
    the pro hac vice motions?
16
             THE COURT: I don't -- look, file your motion. If
    it's in order, I sign them.
             MR. STICHEL: It's been filed already, Your Honor.
18
19
             THE COURT: What case number again?
20
             MR. STICHEL: It is 4434.
21
             THE COURT: And it's actually a motion, not a notice
    of motion?
22
23
             MR. STICHEL: I'll have to check because New Jersey
24
    counsel filed it.
25
             THE COURT: If it's a notice of motion, it won't be
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1
    signed.
 2
             MR. STICHEL: Okay. Can I refile it as a motion
 3
    then?
 4
             THE COURT: Absolutely.
 5
             MR. STICHEL: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.
 6
             THE COURT: And be sure to pay your $250.
 7
             MR. STICHEL: Okay.
 8
             MR. PARIKH: Your Honor, just for the record -- Rajiv
 9
    Parikh for the plaintiffs -- we will consent to all pro hac
10
    vice motions, just so --
11
             THE COURT: I assumed so.
12
             MR. PARIKH: Thank you, Judge.
1.3
             MS. PURCARO: Thank you, Your Honor. Kelly Purcaro,
14
    Greenspoon Marder, another housekeeping item.
15
             It sounds like we're going to be getting the
16
    compliance list. And I just wanted to make sure --
17
             THE COURT: We're going to call it the assignment
18
    list.
19
             MS. PURCARO: The assignment list, the list of
20
    covered people.
21
             I just wanted to make certain in the order or
22
    agreement on the record that we are able as counsel to share
23
    those lists with our clients for compliance. And I know that
24
    sounds silly, but I want to clarify --
25
             THE COURT: I think you should be able to do that.
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1
    Yes, absolutely.
 2
             MS. PURCARO: -- because that was the issue we ran
 3
    into previously.
 4
             THE COURT: Absolutely. All right.
 5
             MS. PURCARO: Okay. Thank you.
 6
             MR. SHAW: May I say one thing, Your Honor? Pardon
 7
    me.
 8
             THE COURT: Yes, go ahead.
 9
             MR. SHAW: Thank you. Excuse me. Adam Shaw.
10
             To the extent that you're -- it seems that at least
11
    one thing we're all agreeing on is moving forward with at
12
    least the facial challenge, and I would suggest that the
1.3
    defendants make that motion by May 3rd, the same date that we
14
    make the remand motion.
15
             THE COURT: Well, all right, let's talk about that,
16
    because I think I do want to go forward with that.
17
             Whether counsel needs to -- defense counsel needs to
18
    get together -- there would have to be a motion in each of the
19
    cases, wouldn't there?
20
             I don't know -- now, in terms of briefing it, you may
21
    work out some way of filing a consolidated brief.
22
             MR. STIO: Your Honor, we can't do it by May 3rd. We
23
    have to meet.
24
             We will make a good faith effort and come up with a
25
    plan on May 7th for the Court on how we can achieve
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1
    efficiencies with consolidated briefing. But to ask for that
 2
    before May 3rd is not --
 3
             THE COURT: I understand.
 4
             MR. STIO: Especially on that issue.
 5
             THE COURT: All right. Here's what -- I'm going to
 6
    enter an order, the next status conference, 10:00, May 7th.
 7
             Plaintiffs are going to file their motions to remand
 8
    May 3rd so that at our next conference we'll talk about what
 9
    we do about the remand motions, whether there's discovery,
10
    whether there should be briefing thereafter by the defendants
11
    in opposition, or whether we just stay the remand once the
12
    motion is filed. Let's give some thought to that. And by
1.3
    that time you'll have a chance to have seen the remand motions
14
    and will be in a better position to talk about them.
15
             My view now is we will go forward with the motions of
16
    facially challenging Daniel's Law. What counsel need to do is
17
    to sit down and talk about the procedure for that, whether
18
    we're going to have multiple briefs, multiple -- or whether
19
    there's some way of having some sort of a consolidated
20
    briefing on that.
21
             So we'll discuss that on May 7th. I won't enter an
22
    order specifically setting a date for those briefs yet because
23
    I think it's important for counsel to talk about how it's
24
    going to be done.
25
             Also, we have the issue of the 37 defendants who are
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1.3

going to be subject to remand motions, because subject matter jurisdiction has been challenged as to those 37, so that the Court would be going forward with the facial challenge only as to the cases where the Court has subject matter jurisdiction.

But I recognize as a practical matter that the defendants in the 37 cases have an interest in what happens and how those 37 defendants would be able to have their voices heard. Let's put it that way. Maybe they wouldn't. Or maybe they could file an amicus brief so they can at least -- and it would be without prejudice to their rights, obviously, on -- they believe they do have subject matter jurisdiction.

But on May 7th, we talk about a briefing schedule for the -- as I said, the subject -- or the facial challenge matter and deadlines and so forth. And also any order requiring motions to dismiss on the facial challenge issue would have some provision that it would be without prejudice to the rights of those defendants to at a later date file other motions to dismiss or any other -- raise any other defenses that they may have.

Also, we currently have a stay that's pending that ends today in terms of answers and so forth. It seems to me that it makes sense at this point to continue the stay until May 7th, through May 7th, so people aren't going to have to be filing -- you know, the deadlines for filing motions and all that sort of thing, because it's just going to wreak havoc if

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1
    we don't have that deadline.
 2
             Is there anything else we need to do today?
 3
             Yes, go ahead.
 4
             MR. McGEE: Yes, Your Honor. Ryan McGee for the
 5
    plaintiffs.
 6
             THE COURT: Yes.
 7
             MR. McGEE: I just wanted to clarify on the stay,
 8
    there's that motion to dismiss from Delvepoint, which is an
 9
    as-applied constitutional challenge.
10
             Just understanding that that is going to stay the
11
    response from the plaintiffs?
12
             THE COURT: Everything will be stayed --
1.3
             MR. McGEE: Okay.
14
             THE COURT: -- except your pro hac vice motions,
15
    obviously.
16
             MR. McGEE: Of course. We're getting those on file,
    but I wanted to clarify that one thing.
18
             THE COURT: All right. We haven't heard from this
19
    fellow.
20
             MR. LEWIN: Your Honor, Ross Lewin for Epson Data
21
    Management and the other defendants in 24-4168.
22
             THE COURT: Yes.
23
             MR. LEWIN: A very minor housekeeping point.
24
             THE COURT: Sure.
25
             MR. LEWIN: At the status conference and in
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1
    subsequent proceedings, is it acceptable to Your Honor that
    pro hac vice counsel appear without local counsel present?
 3
             THE COURT: I don't have any objection to that,
    unless anybody else does. No, that's fine.
 5
             MR. LEWIN:
                        Thank you.
 6
             THE COURT: Yes. Good afternoon.
 7
             MR. STALTARI: Your Honor, my name is Anthony
    Staltari, S-T-A-L-T-A-R-I. I'm from Quinn Emanuel, and we
 9
    represent defendant Yardi in 24-cv-4103.
10
             I just have a quick question about the pro hacs
11
    again. I'm sorry to belabor the point.
12
             THE COURT: It's all right.
1.3
             MR. STALTARI: So when you opened this morning, you
14
    said you wanted a motion, not a notice of motion.
15
             THE COURT: Yes.
16
             MR. STALTARI: Unfortunately, the clerk's office
    requires a notice of motion and will send you a rejection
18
    notice --
19
             THE COURT: Don't worry about it. File a motion.
20
             MR. STALTARI: I understand. But I've been on the
21
    receiving end of getting yelled at before.
22
             THE COURT: If you have an order which doesn't use
23
    the word "proposed order" --
24
             MR. STALTARI: Got you.
25
             THE COURT: -- I will sign it. And I've done many of
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1
    those, and they've been filed by the clerk's office.
 2
             MR. STALTARI: Understood. Understood. Thank you,
 3
    Your Honor.
 4
             MR. PARIKH: Your Honor, Rajiv Parikh for the
 5
    plaintiffs.
 6
             THE COURT: Yes.
 7
             MR. PARIKH: First, thank you for your indulgence
 8
    today with everyone. I think it's very much appreciated, and
 9
    I think this was a very productive conference.
10
             THE COURT: I enjoyed the company of all of you.
11
             MR. PARIKH: Thank you. So just two points, Judge,
12
    with respect to the -- I guess what we're going to call the
1.3
    covered persons list that plaintiffs will provide to the
14
    defendants.
15
             THE COURT: Right. So we're going to call it covered
16
    persons list? We'll do it that way. That's a good phrase.
17
             MR. PARIKH: I hope that's not offensive.
18
             THE COURT: Everybody agreeable to that, the covered
19
    persons list?
20
             MR. PARIKH: So with respect to that list, Your
21
    Honor, I would like a representation or a confirmation from
22
    defendants, I would say within seven days, perhaps, if that's
23
    reasonable, that once they get the list, that they can confirm
24
    their clients in fact are going to suppress the information.
25
    And that way we can put that behind us.
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1
             So I would ask the Court whether that's something the
 2
    Court would be willing to instruct to the defendants.
 3
             THE COURT: I think we're getting into the weeds on
 4
    that. I think we'll just give the information and -- you
 5
    know, if the law is constitutional, their other defenses are
    rejected, it would be in their best interest to do it. Now,
 7
    if the statute is unconstitutional, they don't have to worry
    about it.
 8
 9
             MR. PARIKH: Understood.
10
             THE COURT: So I think you might try to work out
11
    something informally with them, but I don't think I ought to
12
    get into that kind of detail at this point.
1.3
             MR. PARIKH: Okay. Happy to do that. Thank you,
14
    Judge.
15
             The second just housekeeping question, May 7th in
16
    person here in Camden?
17
             THE COURT: That's the place.
18
             MR. PARIKH: Great. Thank you, Judge.
19
             THE COURT: I think if this -- I think it will be in
20
    this courtroom, but I'll obviously have to check with the
21
    powers that be here that this courtroom will be available.
22
    But if it isn't, we'll find another courtroom somewhere in the
23
    courthouse. So we'll put it in our order.
24
             MR. PARIKH: Thank you, Judge.
25
             THE COURT: Anything further today?
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1
             MR. STIO: Nothing from defendants.
 2
             THE COURT: Thank you all very much.
 3
             MR. SHAW: Thank you.
 4
             THE DEPUTY CLERK: All rise.
 5
             (Proceedings concluded at 12:19 p.m.)
 6
 7
             I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript
 8
    from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.
 9
10
11
    /S/ Ann Marie Mitchell 20th day of April, 2024
12
    Court Reporter/Transcriber Date
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